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Daily Report

East Asia

FBIS-EAS-90-019
Monday
29 January 1990

Daily Report
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FBIS-EAS-90-019 CONTENTS *29 January 1990*

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NORTHEAST ASIA

Japan

Kaifu Urges Progress in Talks With U.S. *[KYODO]* 1
'Sources' Say Reduction of U.S. Forces Possible *[KYODO]* 1
    Defense Official Denies Knowledge *[KYODO]* 1
Harrier Fighter Crash Protested in Okinawa 1
    Embassy Asked To Investigate *[Naha TV]* 1
    Local Groups Mobilize *[OKINAWA TIMES 27 Jan]* 2
    Authorities Consider Action *[OKINAWA TIMES 27 Jan]* 2
Town Residents Protest Arrival of U.S. Planes *[OKINAWA TIMES 27 Jan]* 3
Foreign Ministry Sources Speculate on Gorbachev *[KYODO]* 4
Foreign Ministry To Monitor Nicaragua Election *[KYODO]* 4
Government To Send Mission to Cambodia *[KYODO]* 4
Japan 'Hesitant' To Open Air Link With DPRK *[KYODO]* 5
Wives of Detained Seamen Request Official's Help *[KYODO]* 5
Vice Finance Minister Denies G-7 Meeting *[KYODO]* 5
LDP-Opposition Television Debate Set for 2 Feb *[KYODO]* 5
Kanemaru Calls for Political Reorganization *[KYODO]* 6
LDP Official Urges Review of Consumption Tax *[KYODO]* 6
JSP Levels Accusation Against LDP on Rice *[KYODO]* 6
LDP Says KYODO Interfering With Elections *[KYODO]* 7
Brazilian President-Elect Arrives 28 Jan *[KYODO]* 7
Nation's Inflation Growth Lowest of G-7 Nations *[KYODO]* 7
GDR Allegedly Holds Talks With Mitsubishi *[KYODO]* 8
Farm Ministry To Send Study Team to E. Europe *[KYODO]* 8
    Mitsubishi Denies Talks *[KYODO]* 8
Company To Launch Electronic Venture in PRC *[KYODO]* 8
Meeting To Discuss Intellectual Property Rights *[KYODO]* 9
MITI Seeks Reduction in Chlorofluorocarbons *[KYODO]* 9

Mongolia

Leader Warns Against Holding Further Rallies *[Ulaanbaatar International]* 9
Decree Made on Private Livestock Herd Production *[Ulaanbaatar International]* 9
MPRP Committee Discusses Wintering Stock *[MONTSAME]* 10
MPRP Committee Acts To Control Video Spread *[Ulaanbaatar International]* 10
Sodnom Receives Indian Ambassador Kushak Bakula *[MONTSAME]* 10

North Korea

Reportage on Inter-Korean Sports Talks 10
    Talks Held in Panmunjom *[Pyongyang Radio]* 10
    North Delegate Meets Reporters *[Pyongyang Radio]* 12
North Red Cross Sends Message to South *[Pyongyang Radio]* 14
Yang Hyong-sop Statement on IPU Participation *[Pyongyang Radio]* 14
Possibility of U.S. Surprise Attack Viewed *[KCNA]* 15
U.S. Air Exercises in South Denounced *[KCNA]* 15
Paper Carries Kim Il-song's 1952 Speech *[KCNA]* 16
Friendship Gathering Held With Chinese Envoys *[KCNA]* 18

Friendship Gathering Held With Cuban Envoys *[KCNA]* 18
Coal Mining Industry Ministries Set Up *[KCNA]* 18
Transport Workers Increase Freight Turnover *[KCNA]* 18
Steel Works Construction Accelerated *[KCNA]* 19
Agricultural Workers Seek Upsurge in Production *[KCNA]* 19
Medical Data Process Program Developed *[KCNA]* 19
Iron and Steel Production Increased *[KCNA]* 19

South Korea

Assistant Minister on PRC Contacts Resumption *[Seoul TV]* 20
Inter-Korean Sports Talks End in Stalemate *[YONHAP]* 20
    Report on Talks *[Seoul Radio]* 21
Prosecutors Demand Life Imprisonment for Rev Mun *[YONHAP]* 21
Article Notes Changes in North Power Hierarchy *[SEOUL SINMUN 24 Jan]* 22
Further Reportage on Three-Party Merger 24
    NDRP Provincial Office Attacked *[THE KOREA HERALD 29 Jan]* 24
    Kim Tae-chung 'Cautious' *[THE KOREA HERALD 29 Jan]* 24
    Committee Considers Reforms *[YONHAP]* 25
    'Love of Power' Led to Merger *[THE KOREA HERALD 29 Jan]* 25
    Editorial Skeptical of Merger *[HANGYORE SINMUN 23 Jan]* 26
    New Party's Power Move Assailed *[HANGYORE SINMUN 26 Jan]* 28
    Approach to North Viewed *[THE KOREA HERALD 29 Jan]* 29
PPD To Adopt Collective Leadership System *[YONHAP]* 30
Kim Tae-chung Introduces New PPD Officers *[YONHAP]* 30
Company Announces Joint Venture in Italy *[YONHAP]* 31
KAL Plans Flights to Rome, Sydney in 1990 *[THE KOREA TIMES 26 Jan]* 31
Article Analyzes Student Struggle in 1990 *[KYONGHYANG SINMUN 12 Jan]* 31

SOUTHEAST ASIA

Burma

News Conference on Military Attack, Elections *[Rangoon Radio]* 34
Police, Army Drug Seizures in 1989 Reported *[Rangoon Radio]* 34

Cambodia

Reportage on 18th National Assembly Session 35
    Chea Sim Opens Session 26 Jan *[Phnom Penh Radio]* 35
    27 Jan Session Reported *[Phnom Penh Radio]* 36
    28 Jan Session Reported *[Phnom Penh Radio]* 36
    Rubber Plantation Law Debated *[Phnom Penh Radio]* 36
    29 Jan Session Reported *[Phnom Penh Radio]* 36
SPK Reports Humanitarian Aid in 1989 36
Defense Ministry Official on Military Activities *[Phnom Penh Radio]* 37
Battle Activities Reported 13-22 Jan *[SPK]* 37
Military Actions in Siem Reap, Battambang Noted *[Phnom Penh Radio]* 38
Commentary on 'Deceitful' Sihanouk's Resignation *[Phnom Penh Radio]* 38
Sihanouk Blames 'Depression' for Resignation *[AFP]* 38
Son Sann Sees Sihanouk, Returns to Bangkok *[Radio VOK]* 39

Laos

Western Reports on Cambodia Situation Criticized *[Vientiane Radio]* 39
Committee Condemns U.S. Move in South Korea *[KPL]* 40
Conference on Organizational Work Closes *[Vientiane Radio]* 41
SRV Ambassador Holds New Year Reception *[Vientiane Radio]* 41
Australian Envoy Hosts National Day Banquet *[Vientiane Radio]* 41
Indian Ambassador Hosts National Day Reception *[KPL]* 41
Greetings of Thanks Sent to GDR Minister *[Vientiane Radio]* 42

Leaders Receive New Libyan Ambassador *[KPL]* ... 42

Philippines

Manglapus Urges Protest on U.S. 'Noncompliance' *[Quezon City Radio]* ... 42
Aquino on Reports of DPRK Support for Rebels *[Manila Radio]* ... 42
Aquino Says People To Decide on Polls Proposal *[Manila Radio]* ... 42
Opposition Calls for Snap Presidential Election *[AFP]* ... 43
Aquino Holds News Conference on Election Dates *[Manila Radio]* ... 43
Rebels' Families Ordered Out of Aguinaldo *[Quezon City Radio]* ... 45
Rebel General Abenina Captured in Quezon City *[Quezon City Radio]* ... 45
Aquino Signs Law Creating Islamic Bank *[Quezon City Radio]* ... 46
Muslim Rebels Attack Cotabato Barangays *[Manila Radio]* ... 46

Thailand

Joint Study To Fight U.S. Farm Act *[THE NATION 29 Jan]* ... 47
Discussion Topics During Ryzhkov's Feb Visit *[Bangkok Radio]* ... 47
Sitthi Downplays Deng's Remark About Gorbachev *[THE NATION 27 Jan]* ... 47
Group Plans CPT Leader's Return From PRC *[MATICHON 23 Jan]* ... 48
Khmer Rouge Move 4,000 Refugees Into Cambodia *[BANGKOK POST 27 Jan]* ... 48
Article Considers Military Role for ASEAN *[THE NATION 25 Jan]* ... 49
Lao Refugees Repatriated From Camps *[THE NATION 27 Jan]* ... 50
Chatchai Receives Turkish Deputy Prime Minister *[Bangkok TV]* ... 50
Sitthi Receives Turkish Deputy Prime Minister *[Bangkok Radio]* ... 50
Premier To Seek Malaysian Help Against Muslims *[THE NATION 24 Jan]* ... 50
Solidarity Party Seeks No-Confidence Motion *[THE NATION 27 Jan]* ... 51
Opposition Leader Urges Chatchai Resignation *[THE NATION 26 Jan]* ... 51
Khukrit Advises Chatchai To Reshuffle or Resign *[BANGKOK POST 28 Jan]* ... 52
Minister Says No Change in Government Coalition *[BANGKOK POST 29 Jan]* ... 52
New Heroin Refineries Set Up in North *[THE NATION 29 Jan]* ... 53
Trade Deficit Rose 32 Percent in 1989 *[BANGKOK POST 25 Jan]* ... 53

Vietnam

Press Warns Against Efforts To Seize Leadership *[AFP]* ... 53
Vo Chi Cong Interviewed on Ties With USSR *[Hanoi Radio]* ... 54
Water Conservancy Project With Australia Begins *[Hanoi Radio]* ... 55
Leaders Send Greetings To Mark Lunar New Year ... 55
Nguyen Van Linh Sends Letter *[Hanoi Radio]* ... 55
Vo Chi Cong Sends Greetings *[Hanoi Radio]* ... 55
Minister Greets Security Forces *[Hanoi Radio]* ... 56
Leaders Pay New Year Visits to Localities *[Hanoi International]* ... 56
Chairman Do Muoi Pays Visits *[VNA]* ... 56
Hanoi Delegations Make Visits *[Hanoi Radio]* ... 57
'Year of the Horse' Greeted in Vietnamese Press *[VNA]* ... 57
Editorial Welcomes Traditional Lunar New Year *[Hanoi Radio]* ... 58
Lang Son Residents Travel for Tet Shopping *[Hanoi Radio]* ... 58

AUSTRALASIA

Australia

Evans on Aid to PNG, Human Rights Abuses *[Melbourne International]* ... 59

Papua New Guinea

Security Forces Kill Five in Bougainville *[Melbourne International]* ... 59

Japan

Kaifu Urges Progress in Talks With U.S.

OW2901103790 Tokyo KYODO in English 1020 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Text] Tokyo, Jan.29 KYODO—Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu on Monday urged senior government officials to continue their efforts to proceed with structural reforms here despite the political vacuum expected until general elections are held in mid-February, a government official said.

The official said Kaifu's message was intended to encourage his administration's staffers to work seriously on reform plans Japan is expected to undertake under the ongoing structural talks with the United States, regardless of the country's current internal political situation.

The official at the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) said two Japanese representatives to the so-called "Structural Impediments Initiative (SII)" talks met with Kaifu for 40 minutes.

The two are Makoto Utsumi, vice minister of finance for international affairs at the Finance Ministry, and Koji Watanabe, deputy minister for foreign affairs at the Foreign Ministry.

Utsumi, Watanabe and Naomichi Suzuki, MITI's vice minister for international affairs, are representing Japan at the SII talks. Suzuki is now on an overseas trip, according to the MITI official.

"Kaifu said the government must proceed with its work under the SII in view of the improvement in the country's living standards and in its international relations," the official said.

The SII talks, launched last July, aim at removing structural trade barriers such as Japan's complex distribution system and America's low production competitiveness.

The two countries have held bimonthly meetings twice in September and November last year, and the third meeting is likely to be held in Tokyo February 22 and 23, the official said.

The third round of SII talks had originally been scheduled in January, but was postponed due to Japan's planned House of Representatives' election on February 18.

In late March the two sides will prepare an interim paper, a summary of progress made from their talks. The talks will be concluded in the summer with a final report on future reform plans.

'Sources' Say Reduction of U.S. Forces Possible

OW2701025990 Tokyo KYODO in English 0222 GMT 27 Jan 90

[Text] Washington, Jan. 26 KYODO—U.S. Secretary of Defense Richard Cheney may propose a reduction of U.S. Armed Forces in South Korea and Japan when he visits the two countries in mid-February, sources said Friday. Cheney may ask officials of the two countries to open talks on the troop cutback, the sources said. The size of the troop reduction is not known but sources said it would be minor.

The Department of Defense also is considering a scaling down or closing of the Clark Air Base in the Philippines, sources said. Cheney is to visit South Korea February 14-15 and the Philippines February 16-17 before visiting Japan, probably on February 19 or 20, sources said. The United States maintains about 44,000 troops in South Korea, which include 31,000 Army staff. About 100 Air Force aircraft are stationed there, Japan's Defense Agency says. In Japan, there are some 50,000 U.S. troops, which include 23,000 Marines in Okinawa. The U.S. Air Force stations 220 aircraft in Japan, the agency says.

Defense Official Denies Knowledge

OW2701160790 Tokyo KYODO in English 1456 GMT 27 Jan 90

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 27 KYODO—A senior Japanese defense official said Saturday that his agency has not been informed by the United States of its study of a realignment of its forces in the Far East. "We have not been informed of such a study," the official said. "It is somewhat difficult to envisage a concrete plan such as the U.S. is outlining," the official said.

The official, who requested anonymity, was responding to reports that the U.S. Government is studying a realignment of U.S. forces in the Far East, including a partial transfer of its troops in South Korea to Japan and partial withdrawal of Marines stationed in Japan. The official said, however, that the U.S. Government would advise Japan of the cuts if planned when Vice Defense Minister Seiki Nishihiro and Akira Hiyoshi, director general of the Defense Agency's Defense Policy Bureau, visit Washington starting Sunday. In Washington, Nishihiro and Hiyoshi will meet with President George Bush's National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft, Defense Secretary Richard Cheney and Undersecretary of Defense for Policy Paul Wolfowitz to exchange views on cuts in U.S. defense spending and its strategy in Asia.

Harrier Fighter Crash Protested in Okinawa

Embassy Asked To Investigate

OW2701115290 Naha NHK Television in Japanese 0315 GMT 27 Jan 90

[Text] In connection with a crash involving a Harrier fighter yesterday, the Foreign Ministry asked the U.S.

Embassy in Japan to investigate the cause of the crash and take concrete measures to prevent the recurrence of any accidents. In reply, the U.S. Embassy said that it would inform the ministry of the results of the investigation and do its best to prevent further accidents.

Commenting on the crash, Okinawa Prefecture Governor Nishime said that the Harrier crash is very regrettable and that the prefectural government would strongly ask U.S. forces to prevent the recurrence of accidents.

Reformist and antiwar organizations in Okinawa are protesting and making requests one after another this morning. Okinawa Prefecture Headquarters Secretary General Nakasone of the Japan Socialist Party and others called on the Governor's Executive Office director Murayama of the Okinawa prefectural government at 1100 this morning to ask for the suspension of exercises and the dismantling of the exercise pad on Ie Island. At a meeting with Mr Murayama, Mr Nakasone said that the Okinawa Prefecture Headquarters of the Japan Socialist Party believes that exercises by Harrier fighters on Ie Island should be suspended and that the prefectural government should ask U.S. forces to examine the dismantling of the exercise pad from Ie Island. Murayama only replied that the prefectural government would strongly request that the U.S. forces stop the exercises.

The Okinawa Prefecture Headquarters of Komeito, the Okinawa Prefectural Committee of the Japan Socialist Party, and the prefectural Agricultural Cooperative Center are making a similar request to the prefectural government.

Local Groups Mobilize

OW2801030690 Naha OKINAWA TIMES in Japanese 27 Jan 90 Morning Edition p 29

[Text] Northern Bureau—A Harrier attack aircraft of the U.S. Marine Corps crashed off the coast of Ieya Island. The whereabouts of the pilot were unknown on the evening of 26 January. In view of the accident, apprehension has intensified among residents on Ie Island, where full-scale Harrier training has just started. The residents feel that "should training be conducted in the future, there would be a greater danger of accidents." In 1989 the village authorities approved of the training on the condition that "several projects be undertaken as repayment," including a dam for agricultural purposes. The village authorities state that "a decision will be made on how to deal with the issue after clearing up the cause of the crash." However, because of intensifying apprehension among the villagers, it seems that the authorities will inevitably be forced into an awkward position. The residents of the Maja and Nishizaki Districts located in the neighborhood of the Harrier training ground in the village who are opposed to its presence are expected to submit to the village authorities in a few days a request for "suspension of training" and "removal of the Harrier pad."

When Ie Village Mayor Seitoku Shimabukuro received a report on the accident on the evening of 26 January, he shouted: "Can it be true?" He raised his voice as if to indicate that "something I was afraid of has finally happened."

Shimabukuro had only a few words to say about the accident: "I feel very sorry about it. A decision will be made on how to deal with the issue after the cause of the crash is determined." It is most likely that he will be forced into an awkward position, because the Harrier training is scheduled to resume on 29 January.

Meanwhile, Ie Island residents who are opposed to Harrier training unanimously raised their voices in anger, saying: "As has been rumored, it is now clear that the aircraft is defective." At the same time, since their apprehensions about possible crashes have come true, villagers have now come to feel more than ever that "Harrier fighters should be withdrawn because it is not safe to conduct the training over the island."

Ryosei Nohara, leader of the Nishizaki District voluntary group against Harrier training, lives near the Harrier pad on Ie Island. He vented his anger by saying: "The fact that a crash has taken place indicates that accidents may also happen on Ie Island. The crash, which is the accident that we are most afraid of, has actually happened. I tremble at the mere thought of what would have happened if it had carried a nuclear bomb. I hope they will conduct exercises over their homeland, the United States."

The group plans to call on the village mayor and protest against Harrier training on 29 January.

Meanwhile, Shizu Henzan, member of the Villagers Group Opposing the Harrier Pad Project, headed by Ryoyu Henzan, stated strongly: "We oppose the project because we know accidents will happen. The problem with Harrier training is not an issue that merely concerns Ie Village. With the support of all prefectural residents, we will continue our efforts until all Harriers are withdrawn."

Authorities Consider Action

OW2801053490 Naha OKINAWA TIMES in Japanese 27 Jan 90 Evening Edition p 7

[Text] One of the AV8B Harrier II fighters of the U.S. Marine Corps that just started training on Ie Island crashed in the seas north by northeast off the coast of Iheya Island. The accident was a great shock to residents of Ie Island, where the training ground is located, as well as to residents of Kadena Township, which serves as a "relay base." Immediately after the accident, Ie Island residents made urgent appeals on the morning of 27 January, along with residents of Maja and Nishizaki Districts, to the village authorities for the "suspension of training and dismantling of the base." Meanwhile, Kadena Mayor Choei Yoshima criticized the accident harshly, saying that "since it has become clear that Harriers still are defective, we will lodge a strong protest."

Ie—A Harrier fighter of the U.S. forces crashed into the seas near Iheya Island. This accident was a great shock to the residents of Maja and Nishizaki Districts on Ie Island because of their concerns over training safety. One resident after another visited the Ie Village government office on the morning of 27 January, strongly demanding to the executives of the village authorities, including Mayor Seitoku Shimabukuro, that "Harrier training on Ie Island be suspended and the base removed."

Moreover, at the meeting of the executives of the village authorities held prior to the residents' protest, it was decided that an appeal would be submitted to the U.S. forces, as well as to the ministries and agencies concerned, to postpone the Harrier training, which is scheduled to start on 30 January, until the cause of the crash is known.

Among the residents who first protested to the village authorities were nine Maja District residents, including Ryoyu Henzan and other members of the group of villages opposing the Harrier Pad project. They appealed that "the accident has proven that the Harriers is a dangerous aircraft," and that "both the Harriers and the base should be dismantled." Mayor Shimabukuro replied: "I understand your viewpoint very well. However, I need time to take the overall situation into consideration."

Kadena—The crash of a Harrier II attack plane has greatly shocked the residents of Kadena Township, which serves as the relay base for the Harriers. Mayor Choei Yoshihama indicated his indignance at the event by stating: "Kadena Township has repeatedly opposed Harrier flights from Kadena through various measures, including the adoption of a protest resolution. According to th J.S. military, since the Harriers that have been moved to Kadena this time are an improved model, they are safe. However, since an accident occurred during the first training exercise, it proves that Harriers are still 'aircraft with defects'. Because of this, we can never allow Harrier flights from Kadena."

The Harriers are deployed to Iwakuni Base in Yamaguchi Prefecture, but training exercises are held on Ie Island. Kadena Air Base, with its good maintenance facilities, has been used as a relay station.

Mayor Yoshihama's strong stance remains unchanged, as can be seen when he stated: "Harriers have been driven away from Kunigami Village, and training will be temporarily held on Ie Island. However, since Kadena Air Base is used by Harriers, our residents remain in constant fear of crashes and accidents. It is just hard to understand why Harriers are deployed at Iwakuni Base while training is held in Okinawa. The question lies in the government's approach in forcing whatever is dangerous on the small island of Okinawa. To protect the lives of our residents, we will continue to oppose Harrier flights and training here."

Kadena Township will start its protest action by appealing to such agencies as the Naha Defense Facilities Administration Bureau early next week.

Town Residents Protest Arrival of U.S. Planes

OW2801053790 Naha OKINAWA TIMES in Japanese 27 Jan 90 Morning Edition p 29

[Text] Irabu—Six U.S. military airccraft landed at Shimoji-Jima Airport in Irabu Town on the afternoon of 26 January for the purpose of refueling. The town, with Town Manager Shokichi Kawamitsu taking the lead, held a rally for the first time at the airport, severely criticizing the military's use of the site. A participant at the rally read a protest proclamation, saying that "it is an act that violates the original purpose of the airport and which tramples on people's feelings."

The aircraft that landed included a C-130 refueling plane and five CH-46 helicopters, all of which came from a base in the Philippines. After completing the refueling process, which took about 30 minutes, they took off around 1730 for Futenma Air Station.

In response to the arrival, some 100 town office workers and about 30 members of the labor union of Miyako District held a protest rally just outside the airport fence.

Town Manager Kawamitsu, who personally witnessed the refueling, surprisingly said: "I did not know these planes were so noisy. It is just like a military base." He then picked up a microphone and appealed to the rally: "The promises made at the time of airport construction have been ignored. We shall not allow what is happening in front of our eyes to be repeated. We shall stop the militarization of the airport by cooperating with the townspeople."

Moreover, labor union members from the town also expressed their protests one after another. They raised their fists and yelled in unison to give impetus to the rally.

Labor union members of the Miyako District who came from Hirara City by a boat also joined in the rally. Hakukun Kamekawa, deputy chairman of the Miyako District Labor Union, appraised the upsurge of the townspeople, saying: "We would like to carry out our struggle jointly with the townspeople."

The Irabu-Cho Town Assembly plans to adopt a third protest resolution next week. Town Manager Kawamitsu expressd his intention to hold a rally in the future whenever U.S. military planes arrive at Shimoji-Jima Airport.

Foreign Ministry Sources Speculate on Gorbachev

OW2801143490 Tokyo KYODO in English 1251 GMT 28 Jan 90

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 28 KYODO—Japan's Foreign Ministry sees little possibility of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev being toppled from power as a result of the current internal political strife and ethnic unrest in the Soviet Union. Many ministry officials believe Gorbachev's perestroyka (reform) policy is widely supported by Soviets, and that there are almost no political opponents of sufficient stature to challenge Gorbachev, who, they said, is believed to be strengthening his power basis. But some ministry sources said no one can predict what will happen in the Soviet Union.

Some worry about the effect on Japan - Soviet relations if Gorbachev fails in promoting his reform policy and his power weakens. Sources said the Foreign Ministry will closely watch the Soviet Communist Party Central Committee meeting in early February. Some ministry officials believe that the promotion of perestroyka might slow if conservatives demonstrate renewed power and that Soviet economic problems might prove extremely difficult to solve. The officials said that ethnic problems in the Soviet Union are particularly difficult to overcome. These domestic problems might distract the Soviet leadership from being fully involved in improving relations with Japan, the sources said.

Dialogue between Japan and the Soviet Union has intensified recently thanks to Gorbachev's "new thinking" diplomacy. Gorbachev's planned visit to Japan next year is expected to bring a good chance for Japan to explore ways to resolve a territorial issue between the two countries over four Soviet - held islands off Hokkaido. In this regard, the stability in the Gorbachev leadership is an important element in improving bilateral relations, government sources said. So far, Moscow has not informed Japan of any changes in the diplomatic schedule, including the planned visit to Japan of Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze in March.

Foreign Ministry To Monitor Nicaragua Election

OW2701121390 Tokyo KYODO in English 0725 GMT 27 Jan 90

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 27 KYODO—Japan's Foreign Ministry will send 10 people to join the United Nations team which will monitor Nicaragua's general election on February 25, ministry sources said Saturday. The mission, to be led by telecommunications division chief Katsuyuki Tanaka, will include six Spanish-speaking officials who are mainly former members of Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers, Japan's youth group engaged in volunteer work in developing nations. The six have previously served in Latin America and will join the 400-member international monitoring team, the sources said. Other members, including doctors, will work as support staff in the U.N. project.

The Japanese team will leave Japan for Nicaragua in mid-February, the sources said. The peace mission will be Japan's fourth after those sent to Afghanistan, Iran-Iraq, and Namibia. Japan has also promised to give the U.N. 500,000 dollars to help monitor the Nicaragua election and 2 million dollars to oversee the disbanding of the antigovernment contra guerrilla group.

Government To Send Mission to Cambodia

OW2601135090 Tokyo KYODO in English 1158 GMT 26 Jan 90

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 26 KYODO—A Japanese Government official will make a visit to Phnom Penh on a "fact-finding mission" in the near future, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Friday. Spokesman Taizo Watanabe said the official is Masaharu Kono, director of the Foreign Ministry's First Southeast Asia Division and the leading official directly in charge of the Kampuchea issue. Officials said the visit likely to be made in mid-February will represent the first contact in Phnom Penh between an active Japanese diplomat and representatives of the Heng Samrin government since it was installed with Vietnam's invasion in 1979.

Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama first revealed Japan's plan to dispatch an emissary to Phnom Penh when he met in Bangkok with Thai Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan earlier this month. Watanabe said Kono will travel to Kampuchea along with "one or two" other officials following a consultative visit to Washington from January 31 to February 4. He said Kono will be meeting with his U.S. counterparts to convey Japan's "way of thinking" on the Kampuchea issue in the wake of the agreement in Paris last week by the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council on an enhanced U.N. role in resolving the prolonged conflict.

Watanabe said the two visits are to lay the groundwork for "new proposals and ideas" from Japan to settle problems that went unresolved in Paris. "Japan can play a certain role, but before we do that we have to make sure our ally, the U.S., will know our true intentions," he said. Officials said there has been some criticism from the U.S. that Kono's Phnom Penh visit is premature.

Presenting a rationale for the visit to Phnom Penh, Watanabe said Japan has so far received only "indirect" information to work with from the Kampuchean capital. "It is important for a responsible person to be inside the actual place," he said. But he said that any meetings between Kono and representatives of the Heng Samrin government should not imply Japanese recognition of the Vietnam-installed regime. To underscore the point, he said Kono will not be traveling on a diplomatic passport.

Watanabe would not confirm whether a meeting with Prime Minister Hun Sen will take place other than to say none has yet been requested. "He is going to meet whatever officials he thinks appropriate," the spokesman said. Watanabe said Kono will be looking for clues as to "what should be the ideal provisional government in Phnom Penh after what we call a 'comprehensive settlement' is reached." Kono will also be examining the role to be played by the Khmer Rouge, the strongest of the opposition factions.

"It's a kind of fact-finding mission he is going to be engaged in," Watanabe explained. "Based on his mission, we will come up with certain proposals."

Japan 'Hesitant' To Open Air Link With DPRK

OW2601154190 Tokyo KYODO in English 1429 GMT 26 Jan 90

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 25 KYODO—Japan has not received any application from North Korea to initiate an air link between the two countries and would be hesitant to approve one in the absence of official contacts, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Friday. "It would be problematical to fly such aircraft frequently in the absence of contacts between authorities," Spokesman Taizo Watanabe told Japanese reporters. Watanabe was referring to media reports that the government is readying itself to deal with a forthcoming North Korean proposal to open a new charter flight service between Nagoya and Pyongyang via Shenyang in China.

Ruling out the possibility of talks with Pyongyang on that issue in isolation, Watanabe said any such proposal would have to be considered within the context of overall ties. There are more pressing bilateral issues to deal with, he said, a reference to the absence of diplomatic relations and the detention in North Korea of two Japanese seamen on what Japan insists are trumped up espionage charges.

The idea of an air link between the two countries is not an impossible one, but would entail various immigration problems and other knotty technicalities, he said. Watanabe said a scenario in which the plane made a brief stopover in a third country would not necessarily result in its being considered an "indirect flight." As for past precedents, he noted that in 1985 the Japanese Government allowed a nonstop flight from Pyongyang to Japan and back carrying athletes for the Universiad Games in Kobe. But Japan denied permission for such a flight last July at the time of the 13th World Festival of Youth and Students in Pyongyang, out of consideration for South Korea, which boycotted the festivities.

The ASAHI SHIMBUN, a major Japanese daily, reported Wednesday that the rumored North Korean plan envisages use of aircraft of the Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC).

An English-language Chinese newspaper, CHINA DAILY, reported in December that the flights would be operated by a Nagoya travel agency and would become weekly three months after they first commence.

Wives of Detained Seamen Request Official's Help

OW2801143290 Tokyo KYODO in English 1307 GMT 28 Jan 90

[Text] Akashi, Hyogo Pref. Jan. 28 KYODO—The wives of two Japanese seamen detained in North Korea on spy charges on Sunday asked former Deputy Prime Minister Shin Kanemaru that he visit Pyongyang to help realize the release of their husbands.

The seaman—Isamu Beniko, 59, skipper of the "[No.] 18 Fujisan Maru," and Yoshio Kuriura, 58, chief engineer of the same ship—have been detained in North Korea since 1983 on spy charges after a North Korean soldier, Min Hong-gu, stowed away into Japan aboard the ship.

Kanemaru, here on a stumping tour, told the wives, Mineko Beniko, and Tamiko Kuriura, that Makoto Tanabe, former Japan Socialist Party secretary general, and the Japanese Foreign Ministry are negotiating with North Korean officials in China on the matter and Tanabe is scheduled to get in touch with North Korean officials in China after the February 18 general election. He also said if there are prospects of the two seamen's release, he will visit North Korea.

Vice Finance Minister Denies G-7 Meeting

OW2601120590 Tokyo KYODO in English 1031 GMT 26 Jan 90

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 26 KYODO—Vice Finance Minister Tadaaki Hirasawa on Friday denied the rumor that the G-7 meeting was already held and said there is no schedule to have the meeting in the near future. He made the remarks at a press conference at the Finance Ministry, referring to the yen's strong rebound against the dollar in Tokyo trading the same day. "I think the yen-dollar rate movement is tinged with speculation as there has been no change in Japan's economic fundamentals," he said.

As regards a view that major monetary nations have reached agreement to conduct a massive yen-buying operation secretly, Hirasawa merely said, "Major nations have always been making close contacts with each other and cooperative efforts to stabilize exchange rates are unshaken."

LDP-Opposition Television Debate Set for 2 Feb

OW2601151190 Tokyo KYODO in English 1402 GMT 26 Jan 90

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 26 KYODO—A nationally televised debate between leaders of the ruling and four major opposition parties will be held on February 2, the eve of the start of official campaigning for the lower house general election, political sources said Friday. It will be the first such open forum of party heads before an election since 1960, when leaders of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), the Japan Socialist Party (JSP) and the Democratic Socialist Party (DSP) held a debate carried over radio and television. The debate is expected to have a great influence on the outcome of the February 18 election.

Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, who concurrently serves as president of the LDP; JSP Chairwoman Takako Doi; Koshiro Ishida, chairman of Komeito; Tetsuzo Fuwa, chairman of the Japan Communist Party's Presidium; and DSP Chairman Eiichi Nagasue will attend the debate. Satsuki Eda, chief of the minor United Social Democratic Party, might be excluded from the discussion due to the objections of the LDP, Komeito and DSP, sources said.

Kaifu had urged opposition leaders earlier in the day to agree on joining a public debate, saying the public wants to know the domestic and foreign policies of political parties amid rapid developments on the domestic and international scenes. Komeito, the JCP and DSP have agreed to join the February 2 debate to be sponsored by the Japan National Press Club, even though the No. 1 opposition JSP wanted to hold the debate after campaigning begins, sources said. JSP Secretary General Tsuruo Yamaguchi criticized the LDP for being "selfish" in offering to debate after Kaifu failed to make a policy speech to the Diet when it resumed Monday after its New Year recess. As a result, opposition parties were denied the opportunity to question Kaifu before the House of Representatives was dissolved, he said.

The debate will likely center on the 3 percent consumption tax, introduced last April, political reform, agricultural policy, including the possible opening of Japan's rice market to imports, and a possible coalition government of non-communist opposition parties, according to the sources.

Kanemaru Calls for Political Reorganization

OW2701190890 Tokyo KYODO in English 1448 GMT 27 Jan 90

[Text] Funabashi, Chiba Pref., Jan. 27 KYODO—A senior politician from the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) on Saturday called for negotiations among the LDP and three major opposition parties to form a "partial coalition" or to reorganize the political arena soon after the February 18 general election. Shin Kanemaru, former deputy prime minister, said the LDP, the Japan Socialist Party (JSP), Komeito, and the Democratic Socialist Party (DSP) should spell out during the six-month or one-year period after the election a new political system most suitable for the nation.

Kanemaru, who heads the LDP's largest faction formed by former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita, stressed the importance of having talks with the three opposition parties just after the election to restore political stability. In Funabashi and Ichikawa, east of Tokyo, Kanemaru made speeches at meetings of supporters of LDP candidates running in the election.

In mid-December, Takeshita, the most influential figure in the LDP, suggested the possibility of forming a "partial coalition" with some opposition parties after the election. The two centrist parties, Komeito and the DSP, which political analysts said were regarded as potential coalition parters, rejected the former prime minister's idea. Kanemaru, however, said that some opposition members had told him that neither the possible JSP-led government or the LDP's single-party rule will be good for the people.

His remarks indicated that behind-the-scenes negotiations on reorganizing the political community have already started among the ruling and some opposition parties, the analysts said.

LDP Official Urges Review of Consumption Tax

OW2801143390 Tokyo KYODO in English 1312 GMT 28 Jan 90

[Text] Ono, Hyogo Pref., Jan. 28 KYODO—Shin Kanemaru, senior official of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), on Sunday indicated, while calling for a review of the controversial 3 percent consumption tax, that the tax be maintained and its revenue used exclusively to finance social welfare programs. Kanemaru, campaigning here for a candidate from the LDP's largest faction controlled by former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita, said in a lecture that the tax's name could be scrapped but that its purpose should be to finance such welfare expenses as medical care for the aged.

"The name could be changed if public consensus is reached. All revenues from the tax should be utilized to provide efficient professional medical care for the aged and to prevent them from becoming senile," Kanemaru said. He called for resuming talks with the opposition parties concerning revising the consumption tax. An opposition bill aimed at abolishing the tax was denied in an extraordinary Diet session last fall.

The LDP produced its own revision plan last December, calling for priority to be given to funding welfare programs in spending consumption tax revenue. Kanemaru's remarks indicated a move to ensure the tax revenues are used exclusively for welfare spending. Kanemaru, while stressing that the LDP will step down from power if it fails to retain its majority in the upcoming general election on February 18, blasted the idea of an opposition coalition, citing differences in their policies.

JSP Levels Accusation Against LDP on Rice

OW2701190590 Tokyo KYODO in English 1144 GMT 27 Jan 90

[Text] Matsuyama, Jan. 27 KYODO—A senior official of the Japan Socialist Party (JSP) accused the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) Saturday of intending to open the Japanese rice market to imports in spite of its official stand in favor of keeping the market closed. JSP

Secretary General Tsuruo Yamaguchi stressed the need to topple the LDP government in the February 18 general election in order to prevent this happening.

On January 18, International Trade and Industry Minister Hiraku Matsunaga criticized Japan's policy of maintaining self-sufficiency in rice supply, saying such a position contradicts the objective of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), which aims at achieving free global trade. Matsunaga retracted his remarks the following day after being reprimanded by Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu. On Friday, the government also totally denied a KYODO NEWS SERVICE report that a government advisory panel has drafted a report recommending the abolition of a 1942 law that protects rice farmers by controlling imports.

In Matsuyama where he was giving election campaign support to a JSP candidate running in the election, Yamaguchi told reporters that Japan's largest opposition party will push the abolition of the unpopular 3 percent consumption tax, introduced last April, as the main election issue. He said he will instruct his party's local chapters to hold a public debate on the issue in each electoral district. Yamaguchi said that if the JSP wins a targeted 130 seats or more in the 512-seat lower house, it will be a victory for his party. More than 900 candidates in 130 constituencies across the nation have virtually begun their campaigning although official campaigning for the election is not allowed until February 3.

LDP Says KYODO Interfering With Elections

OW2901135390 Tokyo KYODO in English 1204 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 29 KYODO—A top official of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) accused KYODO NEWS SERVICE Monday of attempting to disrupt upcoming elections by publishing "groundless" reports about a proposal to discard a law protecting rice farmers. "The groundless articles are causing public confusion, and appear to be a vicious attempt to interfere with elections," Hiroshi Mitsuzuka, chairman of the LDP's Policy Affairs Research Council, was quoted saying at a meeting of senior government officials and LDP leaders, cabinet spokeswoman Mayumi Moriyama told a news conference.

She said Mitsuzuka was referring to two KYODO stories run over the weekend that an independent government advisory committee plans to urge the government to scrap a 1942 law that controls rice imports.

Moriyama said that the government was not trying to influence the council's work, but that the government is worried that the articles may have an impact on upcoming elections for the House of Representatives. "At this time the issue (of abolishing the law) is not being discussed," she said, reversing a statement she made on Friday that scrapping the act was one of a number of options being considered by the provisional council for the promotion of administrative reform.

In a separate news conference Ryuzo Sejima, No 2 man at the council, said he asked KYODO President Shinji Sakai Monday to retract the two stories.

Sejima, adviser to C. Itoh & Co., told reporters that the council has not discussed abolition of the law, and that the draft proposal reported by KYODO does not exist. He said the committee would consider taking legal measures if the matter is not satisfactorily resolved.

KYODO said in a statement that the company is standing by the two stories.

The LDP is expecting one of its toughest general elections in its 35-year history next month. It will be the first election following the LDP's first ever defeat in last summer's polls for the House of Councillors. The LDP is hoping to win back support from farmers, who last summer registered their dissatisfaction with the LDP's liberalization policies by voting for opposition parties.

Governors of eight agricultural prefectures have registered concern over reports of the abolition of the law.

Meanwhile, Agriculture Minister Michihiko Kano told reporters in Yamagata Monday that the government will maintain the 100-percent self-sufficiency policy in rice supply and keep imports out. He also said there is no change in the government's policy to continue the foodstuff control system.

Kano was back in Yamagata, his electoral constituency, to garner voter support in the run-up to the February 18 general elections.

Brazilian President-Elect Arrives 28 Jan

OW2801133290 Tokyo KYODO in English 0848 GMT 28 Jan 90

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 28 KYODO—Brazilian President-elect Fernando Collor de Mello arrived in Japan Sunday for talks with Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu and other political and business leaders. Collor de Mello, 40, will assume the presidency March 15, succeeding Jose Sarney. Collor de Mello was elected president last December in a runoff in the first direct presidential election in 29 years in Brazil. His visit to Japan is part of an extended trip to the United States, the Soviet Union and European countries prior to taking up his presidential duties. He will leave for Moscow on Tuesday.

Nation's Inflation Growth Lowest of G-7 Nations

OW2701041390 Tokyo KYODO in English 0335 GMT 27 Jan 90

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 27 KYODO—Japan's inflation growth in 1989, though much higher than the less-than-1-percent annual rise in the preceding three years, was the lowest among major industrialized nations for the third consecutive year. The Economic Planning Agency (EPA) said Friday the nationwide consumer price index (CPI) recorded a 2.3 percent rise last year.

This turned out to be the lowest among the Group of Seven industrial democracies, agency officials said.

The agency said the CPI increase, the first rise above 2 percent since 1986, resulted mostly from the 3 percent consumption tax introduced last April. The 2.3 percent growth compares with that of 7.8 percent in Britain, 6.6 percent in Italy, 5.2 percent in Canada, 4.8 percent in the United States, 3.5 percent in France and 2.8 percent in West Germany, the agency said.

Agency officials, expressing confidence in the price outlook, said the leading inflation indicator is expected to be stable within 2 percent in 1990. But they cautioned that the yen's downtrend against the U.S. dollar, higher oil price and rising wages amid acute labor shortage potentially could threaten price stability. Japan's consumer price growth started to decline since 1980, reflecting lower import prices due to the higher yen and lower oil prices.

GDR Allegedly Holds Talks With Mitsubishi

OW2701020590 Tokyo KYODO in English 0144 GMT 27 Jan 90

[Text] Bonn, Jan. 26 KYODO—The East German Government talked in Berlin Friday with officials of Japan's Mitsubishi business group about the production of motor vehicles in East Germany for export to the European market in the 1990s, the state-run ADN News Agency reported. The ADN report said Mitsubishi will shortly present a detailed proposal to the East German side on an auto plant that would help secure jobs for East German workers in the auto industry.

The talks were held between Hans-Joachim Lauck, East German minister of machine-building industry, and Mitsubishi officials, the report said. A Mitsubishi Motors Europe B.V. official in Frankfurt acknowledged that Mitsubishi officials are visiting East Germany for talks. But he declined to disclose the topics of the talks.

The East German auto industry has not conducted technological modernization since the 1950s. It is continuing scant auto production of small passenger cars. West Germany's Volkswagen AG has set up a joint venture with the East German automaker IFA to build a new passenger car factory in Zwickau in southern East Germany with a 5 billion marks (about 430 billion yen) investment.

Farm Ministry To Send Study Team to E. Europe

OW2901140890 Tokyo KYODO in English 1301 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 29 KYODO—The Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Ministry will send an agricultural study team to Eastern Europe this summer at the earliest, officials said Monday.

The officials said its main aim will be to study the possible effects of democratization among East European countries on their exports and imports of farm products. The possible impact on Japan, a major farm produce importer, will also be examined.

The mission will be composed mainly of nonministry experts on East European agriculture.

The ministry will also commission a British research agency in fiscal 1990 and fiscal 1991 to study the present state of agriculture in East European countries, the officials said.

Mitsubishi Denies Talks

OW2701030090 Tokyo KYODO in English 0237 GMT 27 Jan 90

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 27 KYODO—Mitsubishi Motors Corp. Saturday morning denied a Friday report by East Germany's ADN News Agency on talks between East German and Mitsubishi business group officials about auto production in that country. Komakichi Sugiyama, executive director of Mitsubishi Motors, also said he has heard nothing about any recent visit to East Germany by officials of Mitsubishi Motors Europe B.V. of Frankfurt, West Germany.

Hirokazu Nakamura, president of the Japanese automaker, acknowledged that his company previously had studied whether East Germany could be one of its production footholds abroad. However, he denied that his firm is conducting talks on a concrete plan for such an idea. The current economic environment in East Germany is lackluster and therefore would require sizable assistance from West Germany, Nakamura said. At present, foreign automakers are very cautious about such local production in East Germany, he said.

Mitsubishi Motors Corp. is planning to manufacture motor vehicles in the European Community (EC) region jointly with either of [as received] European automakers, including Volkswagen AG of West Germany and AB Volvo of Sweden. So far, Mitsubishi said it has yet to decide on a joint-venture partner and a site for the planned production in Europe. Nakamura said Saturday he wants to finalize on the plan by the end of this year.

Company To Launch Electronic Venture in PRC

OW2701145890 Tokyo KYODO in English 0818 GMT 27 Jan 90

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 27 KYODO—NEC Corp. has reached broad agreement with China to launch two joint ventures to manufacture electronic components and devices, industry sources said Saturday. The sources said the agreement calls for joint production of integrated circuits (ICS) with the Beijing municipal government and electronic exchanges for telephone service with the Tianjin municipal government. Negotiations for the ventures had been suspended since the military crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrators in Beijing last June.

The project will require total investment estimated at about 300 million dollars, the sources said. NEC will be the first Japanese company to jointly manufacture ICS and electronic telephone exchanges in China. NEC will provide hardware and software to the two factories.

Meeting To Discuss Intellectual Property Rights

OW2701122090 Tokyo KYODO in English 0745 GMT 27 Jan 90

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 27 KYODO—Industrialized and developing countries will hold five days of talks in Tokyo beginning Monday to discuss problems related to intellectual property rights, government officials said Saturday. The conference, to be held at the patent office of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry, will bring together representatives from the United States, Britain, France and other advanced nations. Eleven Asian developing economies, including India, the Philippines and China, will also attend.

Work is under way to determine new international rules for the protection of intellectual property rights under the Uruguay round of multilateral trade talks sponsored by the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). The Tokyo meeting will focus on ways to promote cooperation between advanced nations and developing countries to protect intellectual property rights.

MITI Seeks Reduction in Chlorofluorocarbons

OW2601121490 Tokyo KYODO in English 0951 GMT 26 Jan 90

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 26 KYODO—The Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) will seek a 50 percent cut by 1995 in the world production and use of five specified chlorofluorocarbons (CFCS) at the upcoming international meeting in Geneva in March, ministry officials said Friday. The ministry will also call for an 85 percent reduction by 1998 in output and consumption of the fully halogenated CFCS—CFC-11, 12, 113, 114 and 115—that are specified internationally as destroying the ozone layer. The ozone layer is believed to shield the earth from harmful ultraviolet rays from the sun. The MITI's proposals have yet to be approved by other ministries and agencies, the officials said.

A multilateral working group is scheduled to meet in Geneva March 8-14 to discuss proposals submitted [words indistinct]. Under the 1987 Montreal protocol, the nations agreed to halve the consumption of the five specified CFCS by mid-1998. These specified CFCS are widely used now for a variety of industrial purposes, such as for the cleaning of semiconductor chips.

Currently, the nations are in agreement to ban totally the use of the specified CFCS by the year 2000 based on the Helsinki declaration adopted in May last year. A series of additional scientific data revealing serious environmental destruction in progress after the Montreal conference led to such an international agreement.

The working group met twice in August and November last year to revise the Montreal protocol under the auspices of the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP). After its third meeting in March this year, the countries will gather in London in June to adopt the revised version of the protocol, which will call for drastic cuts in the world output and use of "ozone-killer" chemicals, including CFCS and halon. After that, restrictions on the use of such chemicals will be imposed by the nations starting from next year, the MITI officials said. CFC makers in Japan will start introducing alternative products in 1993 and the MITI expects the supply of such products to expand greatly in the market by 1998.

For the use of halon, the MITI is now proposing a cut of 50 percent by 1995. Because no alternative products for halon have been developed so far, the timing of a total ban on the use of halon will depend on the progress on development plans by governments and companies in the future, the officials said.

Mongolia

Leader Warns Against Holding Further Rallies

OW2701124690 Ulaanbaatar International Service in English 0910 GMT 26 Jan 90

[Text] The newspaper [words indistinct], ULAANBAATAR NEWS, writes that Deputy Chairman of the Presidium of the Hural of People's Deputies of Ulaanbaatar Monhjargal [name and title as heard], on behalf of the Presidium of the Great People's Hural, the parliament of Mongolia, has expressed indignation on the holding of a rally on the Suhbaatar Square by the Mongolian Democratic Union in violation of the temporary directive of Ulaanbaatar City authorities on holding rallies and demonstrations in streets and on squares of the capital city.

Monhjargal has severely warned of the repetition of similar breaches in the future.

According to the temporary directive, it is prohibited to hold public rallies and demonstrations on the central Suhbaatar Square and a number of other places in parks, nearby railway terminals, and the airport.

Decree Made on Private Livestock Herd Production

OW2501082790 Ulaanbaatar International Service in English 0910 GMT 24 Jan 90

[Text] Late last year the Presidium of the Mongolian Great People's Hural passed a decree on the number of private livestock, which was an important move towards increasing the number of privately owned livestock. This decree has a number of novelties. First of all, it provides an increase in the number of livestock owned privately by citizens from 50 to 100 percent, especially those who are not cooperative farm members.

The decree does not limit the number of hogs, rabbits, and chickens. It also notes that the number of mother animals must not be included in the overall number of privately owned. According to this decree, the law on obligatory procurement of meat, wool, and milk to the state by the citizens is annuled. Amendments are made regarding the regulation on the sale of produce. Earlier the citizens were obliged to sell extra livestock strictly according to state-fixed procurement prices. But now people have the right to decide on their own what to do with their livestock, either to sell them on market, give them to their relatives, or to sell them to different organizations.

MPRP Committee Discusses Wintering Stock

OW2601004390 Ulaanbaatar MONTSAME in English 1714 GMT 25 Jan 90

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, 25 Jan (OANA-MONTSAME)—A meeting held at the MPRP [Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party] Central Committee discussed questions related to the organization of livestock wintering.

Sh. Gungaadorj, deputy chairman of the MPR [Mongolian People's Republic] Council of Ministers, heads of a number of ministries and departments and first secretaries of some provinces took part in it.

It was said at the meeting that the wintering of livestock is taking place in the conditions of heavy snowfalls and frosts in the west 50 and south-east of the country. Six provinces (three in the center of the country and three in the Gobi region) face the difficulty of ensuring survival of the animals which have not yet recovered from this summer's it [as received] is expected that these regions will need additional feed or about 800 thousand animals and a great number of livestock will have to be moved to better pastures.

MPRP Committee Acts To Control Video Spread

OW2901083290 Ulaanbaatar International Service in English 0910 GMT 27 Jan 90

[Text] The Politburo of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee has passed a resolution on using video technique and video recorders. It notes that lately video technology and video recording has spread all over the country very rapidly, as a result of which there is no effective control whereby recordings with immoral content has penetrated. [Sentence as heard] Moreover they are used for making unearned income.

The resolution notes the importance of using video technology for spiritual education of the masses and the inadmissibility of propagating violence, pornography, and other immoral ideas. In view of this it is planned to set up a video center to handle all the related matters.

Sodnom Receives Indian Ambassador Kushak Bakula

OW2901082690 Ulaanbaatar MONTSAME in Russian 1430 GMT 27 Jan 90

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, 27 Jan (MONTSAME)—Dumaagiyn Sodnom, chairman of the MPR [Mongolian People's Republic] Council of Ministers, today received Kushak Bakula, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Republic of India to the MPR, in connection with the presentation of his credentials. Chief of a department of [words indistinct].

North Korea

Reportage on Inter-Korean Sports Talks

Talks Held in Panmunjom

SK2901072990 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 0400 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Text] According to a report filed by reporters Kim Myong-son and Han Kwang-to from Panmunjom, the 8th round of North-South sports talks to discuss the question of forming a single North-South team for the 11th Asian Games was held today in Tongilgak, located in our side's area at Panmunjom.

A large number of domestic and foreign reporters have come to Tongilgak to cover the talks.

The talks were attended by five delegates from our side headed by Kim Hyong-chin, vice chairman of the DPRK Olympic Committee, and by five delegates from the South side.

Senior delegate Kim Hyong-chin made some remarks at the talks.

Noting first of all that we are already holding the 2nd round of full-dress talks greeting the significant New Year, during which time the desire for reunification—which all fellow countrymen are ardently aspiring to—will be achieved, he stated that the interests and expectations of all fellow countrymen and athletes are centered on this place where the talks are being held.

He said that all the people ardently hope that our people's will for reunification will be demonstrated by effecting a new turning point on joint participation in the 11th Asian Games. This can be done by the North and the South's forming a single team at any cost, thus fully demonstrating our prominent ability and wisdom. He stated that if the written agreement on formation and participation of a single team had been signed during the 7th round of talks held on 18 January, as had already been agreed on, the single team with one title, one flag and one song would have been born for the first time in the 45-year history of national division, and that firm prospects for the North and the South to participate in the 11th Asian Games as a single team would have been open.

He continued: We were unable to form a single team, the unanimous demand of the times and the nation, as a gift for fellow countrymen during the last, 7th round of full-dress talks. We have brought nothing to fruition during the contacts between the working delegates which followed thereafter. Today we are holding the next, 8th round of talks. We regret this very much.

Our side's senior delegate said that, despite the fact that a complete agreement was reached on 10 points for basic measures regarding the formation and participation of the single team, as well as on the written agreement on composition and details of operation for the joint committee of the single team, we did not sign the final written agreement because precious time was wasted with unnecessary arguments. Thus, we have not been able to give birth to a single team. This is indeed regrettable.

He stressed that both sides reached a basic agreement on all questions concerning the formation of a single team during November of last year and declared that they would work out a draft document during January and would sign the final written agreement on the formation and participation of the single team. However, January is almost gone and we have not been able to form a single team. The reason for this is that your side intentionally delayed the formation of a single team while creating artificial difficulties and complexities.

He continued: I do not want to argue about the past affairs. But I consider it necessary under today's circumstances to briefly mention about them.

As is already known, your side created difficulties and complexities before the talks in various ways instead of striving to form a single team at any cost from the outset of the talks.

When we put forth a concrete plan concerning the selection of players during the 1st round of talks, your side, noting that this plan was complex, said that this should be discussed at the joint committee.

Our side's senior delegate said that our plan was a reasonable proposal which was put forward after studying in depth the problems concerning the selection of the players. However, we revised our plan as your side proposed and agreed on this by taking your side's opinion into consideration. However, your side, contrary to remarks made during the 3rd round of talks, abruptly changed its attitude during the 4th round of talks and put forward 18 concrete guidelines for selecting the players. During the 5th round of talks, your side again put forward the issue of openness in selecting the players and delayed the discussion of the issues. He then emphasized: Such an act by your side is not a correct attitude toward the talks, it is designed to make the discussion of issues complex.

The chief delegate of our side said: Despite this, even though we knew that your side's act was unjust and intentional, our side was magnanimous enough to accept your side's proposals as a whole with little change from the standpoint of making everything serve the formation of a single team so that we might realize the single team desired by fellow countrymen, and we endeavored to reach agreement on many issues.

He noted: However, even after that, your side tried to indefinitely delay the formation of a single team by insisting on your side's unjust assertions on such pending issues as the head of the single team and the location of the joint secretariat. Moreover, your side made an unnecessary argument again by absurdly raising the issue of the Chinese spelling of the name of the single team, when it had already been agreed upon.

He said: In fact, when we saw your side's actions, we had to doubt whether the formation of a single team would be possible. Under such circumstances, however, although the assertions of your side were not realistic or reasonable, our side took the patriotic step of broad-mindedly accepting your proposal on several pending issues, such as that of the head of the single team, on 22 December at the sixth round of talks. This is due to the sheer desire to form a single team by any means, thereby reaching a complete agreement on the 10-item plan for the formation of a single team.

Our side's chief delegate said that this was a clear manifestation of the sincere efforts of our side to make everything serve the solution of the issue of forming a single team, and continued:

[Begin Kim Hyong-chin recording] Frankly speaking, that the two sides agreed on the 10-item plan for the formation of a single team was an epochal event unprecedented in the history of the North-South sports talks. This was a festive event which both the North and the South should be glad of. However, despite complete agreement on the basic plan, your side insisted, to our surprise, that it was not agreed upon, expressing displeasure, and was reluctant to support it, saying that our side agreed to the proposal of your side without studying it and that your side was at a loss to know our intent.

After an agreement was reached on the Chinese spelling of the name of the single team, your side delayed the process of the talks with an unnecessary argument by again raising the issue of not spelling the name of the team as Koryo. We can say that it was because of our magnanimity and concessions that the 10-item basic plan for the formation and participation of a single team has been completed, and that the written agreement on the formation and operation of the joint committee was completely agreed upon. Opinion at home and abroad consistently recognizes this.

After all, the issue of the formation and participation of a single team became firm in the sixth round of talks, which was a bright prospect for the talks. So, the remaining issues after the sixth round of talks were: working out the final draft of the 10-item basic plan, working out the supplementary rules for the formation and operation of the joint committee, discussing the safeguards to guarantee the agreed clauses, and then signing everything.

However, despite the fact that your side said that the discussion of the basic items should be concluded last year and the joint committee should be installed not later than (?February) this year, your side did not even mention the contents of the basic items at the sixth round of talks, the last round of talks we had last year, but you again raised the issue of the necessity of discussing the so-called guarantee mechanism.

This year, at the fourth round of working delegates' contacts held on 10 January, 1 week before the seventh round of talks, your side proposed as many as 37 new items and proposed that these be discussed first. Of course, one can put forward various proposals in the course of conducting talks.

However, depending on the time of its presentation and on its content, a proposal can sincerely serve to make progress in the discussion of problems or can hinder the discussion of problems, thus creating an obstacle to the sports talks. From such a viewpoint, the supplementary rules that your side presented at the fourth round of the contact between working delegates on 10 January cannot but be construed as designed to delay the talks and to create difficulties before them, because the problems included in the content of the supplementary rules are not problems that can be discusssed in the full-dress talks and because the supplementary rules were presented at a time when the discussions on the formation of a single team have been basically completed and when, accordingly, the declaration for the formation of a single team is now imminent.

Therefore, in three rounds of contact between working delegates and one round of full-dress talks, in the past our side repeatedly urged your side to withdraw your side's supplementary rules, to sign at the earliest possible date a written agreement on the formation and participation of a single team and a written agreement on the detailed rules of the joint committee for promotion and formation of a single team, to conclude discussion of the problem of guarantee mechanisms for the implementation of agreements, and, thus, to declare the formation of a single team to the world.

However, your side opposed drafting written agreements, insisting that it cannot sign them before discussing the supplementary rules. Thus, your side openly revealed an attitude of attempting to delay the birth of a single team. So, now your side has been unable to conceal your intention not to form a single team.

The delegates of the South side: Now we can afford no more setbacks. If we suffer setbacks again, we will not only repeat the ugly precedents of the sports talks in the sixties and the seventies which bore no fruit, but also commit the fault of planting greater hurt on the hearts of our compatriots who have suffered the division of the nation.

The formation of a single team, which the nation and the times urgently want, is a pressing issue that we can by no means evade. The formation of a single team must be realized at any cost, and, thus, the nation's desire should be realized.

Now that the date of the 11th Asian Games is drawing near, we have no time for arguments between the two sides. At today's meeting we should conclude the discussion of issues and sign the final written agreement so that we can produce good news on the formation of a single team for the nation. This is the important task that the nation and sportsmen in the North and the South have assigned our 10 delegates. This task should not be left unrealized. It is also the desire of the nation and the time, which should be realized without fail.

We delegates, who have an important mission before the times and history, should have a thorough attitude and position, of serving everything for the birth of a single team just as the Korean sportsmen are faithful to the nation and history. From such a viewpoint, at today's meeting we sincerely urge your side to withdraw the issues on the guarantee mechanisms for the implementation of agreements, and to sign the 10-point agreement on the formation and participation of a single team and a written agreement on the detailed rules for the formation and operation of the joint committee for promotion and formation of a single team, and to discuss and adopt written agreements of the Olympic comittees and guarantee memoranda of the authorities of both sides so that we can declare the birth of a first single team of the nation. [end recording]

This has been a statement by Kim Hyong-chin, chief delegate of our side, at the eighth North-South sports talks.

North Delegate Meets Reporters

SK2901110990 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 0500 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Text] According to the report sent by reporters Kim Myong-song and Han Kwang-po from Panmunjom, the eighth round of North-South sports talks were held in the Tongilgak, a building in the area of our side in Panmunjom today. After the talks, Kim Hyong-chin, the chief delegate of our side, met domestic and foreign reporters and informed them of the status of the talks.

[Begin Kim Hyong-chin recording] At the talks today, as we promised to you reporters when the seventh round of talks were held, our side came to the talks with an expectation, as agreed upon by both sides, that: First, working out a final draft of the written agreement on the method of formation and participation of a single team would be made; second, working out a final draft of the written agreement on the method of formation and appointment of the joint committee for the single team would be made and that these agreements would be signed; and third, we came to the talks hoping that, as to the guarantee mechanism for the formation and utilization of the single team, we would be able to adopt the written agreement mutually confirming a memorandum of the government authorities and the guarantee by the Olympic Committees of both sides as agreed upon by both sides. However, at today's talks, as was the case with the seventh round of talks, we ran into difficulties at the final stage of the formation of a single team.

In fact, both sides had promised and agreed at the sixth round of talks that the formation of a single team would be concluded with the chief delegates of both sides signing the agreement at the seventh round of talks and announcing it to the world. However, the South side made the seventh round of talks unfruitful by putting forward the unjust 37-item supplementary rules on 10 January, 1 week before the seventh round of talks, crippling progress in the talks not only at the seventh round of talks but at the eighth round of talks held today as well, making it impossible to announce a single team.

At today's talks, the South side insisted that it could make the final draft of the agreement only if agreement is reached on those issues other than the interpretation of the terms and the guarantee mechanism, even though the term "supplementary rules" was not used. In particular, the South side raised the issue of a written agreement on the interpretation of the terms of the 10-point written basic agreement at the working delegates' contact held on 10 January, and today it withdrew this supplementary written agreement and said that the purpose and the meaning can be agreed upon when the final draft of agreement is worked out. This implies presenting a new proposal for reaching an agreement on purposes and meanings instead of withdrawing the formal proposal for affixing an appendix. In fact, this new proposal is nothing different from the previous one in terms of fundamental contents.

Our side asked the South side what the difference is between the South side's previous proposal that the 10-point written agreement be adopted in the form of an additional written agreement and its proposal today that the purpose and meaning should be agreed upon when the final draft of agreement is made. Also, we questioned whether the two sides could not work out the final draft of the agreement and adopt the written agreement if both sides failed to agree on this matter when the final draft of agreement was made.

To this, the South side insisted that it cannot agree with the 10-point clauses without a consensus on their purpose and meaning. To give an example, Paragraph 4A of the formula on the formation of a single team includes a clause which stipulates that the games for selection of players are conducted, and opened to the public at the final stage of the joint training. In the interpretation of the terminologies, the South side pointed out the size of the spectator groups, the reporters' groups, and the support personnel; the size of the athletic groups; and the method of report coverage. However, these issues are ones which are to be discussed at the joint committee. We asked the South side: If the problem of the interpretation of the terminology on "opening the games to the public" is not discussed, will your side not agree upon the 10-point clause? To this question, the South side said that it would not agree upon the clause.

What does this mean? In other words, this means that going back to the starting point, both sides should discuss again the 10-point clause concerning the formation of a single team under the pretext of the interpretation of terminologies. As the South side insisted, if both sides discuss again the 10-point clause which has been agreed upon after expending much effort for as many as 9 months under the pretext of the interpretation of terminologies, this means that another 9-month period would be needed for the interpretation of terminologies. In other words, both sides would have to continue discussions on the interpretation of terminologies until the opening day of the 11th Asian Games. This is indeed an utterly unjust proposal. Therefore, our side urges the South side to withdraw such a preposterous proposal and to work out the drafting of agreements.

Furthermore, the South side came up again with the issue of sending to the Organizing Committee of the 11th Asian Games and the Asian Olympic Committee letters saying that in case the formation of a single team fails, the North and the South will participate in the games as separate teams. This tells us that the South side is not in a position to sincerely want to form a single team.

Reporters, listen to my statement. In the meeting where, after long years since their division, the North and the South sit together to form a single team, putting forward a proposal to send such letters to the international organizations on the assumption that the formation of a single team will fail cannot but be a disgrace to the nation. It also has nothing to do with the instrinsic purpose of the formation of a single team. Besides this, the South side repeatedly insisted that it will not agree to work out the drafting of agreements unless various issues in the supplementary rules, which should be discussed in the joint committee, are discussed at the final stage of the sports talks.

Therefore, at the final stage of today's talks, we clearly declared that the supplementary rules proposed by the South side are clearly not a guarantee mechanism for the implementation of the agreements, but are not only a barrier built before the formation of a single team, but are also a damping device to hinder the formation of a single team. We also urged the South side to completely withdraw the supplementary rules in the next talks and, thus, to participate in the talks with sincerity for the formation of a single team, as called for by the nation.

As many reporters here clearly witnessed today, I can say that the entire course of today's talks made clear who is interested in the formation of a single team and who wants its formation. In fact, the South side's refusal to withdraw its unjust proposals such as the supplementary rules in today's talks not only has clouded the prospect of the talks, but has also gone so far as to lead the talks to a stage which may break off the formation of a single team. Both sides decided on 7 February as the date of the ninth talks. [end recording]

Thus, Kim Hyong-chin, chief delegate of our side, informed domestic and foreign reporters of the result of the eighth North-South sports talks.

North Red Cross Sends Message to South

SK2901084390 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 0808 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Telephone message from Pak Yong-su, head of the North side's delegation to North-South Red Cross contacts between working-level delegates, to Song Yong-tae, chief delegate of the South side on 29 January—read by announcer]

[Text] To Song Yong-tae, chief delegate of the South side's delegation to North-South Red Cross contacts between working-level delegates:

I have received your telephone message dated 24 January.

In the telephone message, your side proposed face-to-face contact between delegation heads, distorting the truth as if we had revoked the plan to perform the opera "Flower Girl."

We have never stated that we revoked the plan to stage the opera "Flower Girl."

As is already (?known) to the world, we made clear in the telephone message sent to your side on 18 January that the opera "Flower Girl" not only totally complies with an agreement between the two sides, but is also an excellent work of art of our nation and has been staged to great applause in many foreign countries. Also, we urged your side to come out to a working-level contact at an early date without (?avoiding) contacts and presenting unjust preconditions.

This notwithstanding, your side arbitrarily interpreted and distorted the content of our telephone message. This shows an insincere attitude and cannot be viewed as a sincere dialogue attitude of trying to make progress in working-level contacts that are now deadlocked.

Considering that if your side genuinely wants to wind up the contacts at an early date, exchange the second Red Cross art troupes and home-visiting groups as desired by the entire nation, and resume the full-dress Red Cross talks, your side should no longer delay with an item of performance, we notify your side that only when your side expresses willingness to accept the opera "Flower Girl" will we sit face to face with your side at any time without being confined to a form of contact. [Signed] Pak Yong-su, head of the North side's delegation to North-South Red Cross contacts between working-level delegates, on 29 January 1990.

Yang Hyong-sop Statement on IPU Participation

SK2701091590 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 2300 GMT 23 Jan 90

[Press statement issued by Yang Hyong-sop, chairman of the DPRK Parliamentary Group, in connection with the South Korean side's refusal of a DPRK proposal for forming a North-South single delegation to the Interaprliamentary Union's conference—read by announcer]

[Text] Press statement of Yang Hyong-sop, chairman of the DPRK Parliamentary Group:

As has been known, on 17 January we sent to the chairman of Parliamentary Group of South Korea a letter proposing to discuss in talks between the parliamentary groups of the North and the South the question of hosting in Pyongyang the 84th conference of the Interparliamentary Union [IPU] slated for this fall and forming a North-South single delegation for this conference.

This proposal of ours to the South side proceeded from our urgent desire to make a greater contribution to the IPU's work through this and, particularly, to help realize, even to a small degree, national reunification, which our nation urgently desires. Our proposal takes into consideration the view of the organization that hosting of the IPU conference in Pyongyang would be not only favorable to the cause of reunification of our country, but would be also of help to the work of the organization. And, accordingly, the proposal is a very just proposal in view of the work of the organization and in view of the urgency of the cause of national reunification. This was why the IPU said that it would approve our proposal if the North and the South agree upon it.

However, the South Korean side, far from sending a reply to the letter that contained our sincere proposal, held a press conference on 19 January at which it took the stand of refusing to accept our proposal without any proper reason, just terming it a proposal only for propaganda purpose and something unprecedented in the histroy of the organization and arguing that it is impossible to achieve consensus.

Such an act on the part of the South side is a rude act lacking such elementary etiquette as replying to the letter of the other side, which proposed to have talks between delegates of the parliamentary groups of the North and the South. The South side said it opposes our proposal because it is unprecedented in the history of the IPU. However, if the North and the South form a single delegation, attend the conference of the union and thus contribute better to the work of the union by pooling efforts, not confrontation, within the framework of the union, this will conform to the purpose and activity of the union.

Therefore, there is no ground for us to fail to do it simply because it would be unprecedented in the history of the union. And the union and parliamentary groups of the member nations are warmly welcoming our proposal.

The South side this time said that it is impossible to achieve a consensus in opinion in the formation of a single North-South delegation. As for this argument of the South side, it is nothing but an excuse not to accept our just proposal, considering that it is a common phenomenon for the delegation of a country to the interparliamentary conference to comprise parliamentarians of different political views and to have a split vote.

The South side also evaded the convocation of the talks, describing our proposal as propaganda and the like as soon as it received the letter, without having talks with us. This cannot be construed otherwise than an act that hates a reunification-oriented initiative.

By pretending to oppose our proposal out of the intention to direct efforts to the North-South parliamentary talks, while failing to approach with sincerity the North-South parliamentary talks for the solution of the reunification question, the South side exposed by itself that it does not have the least interest in the question of national reunification.

This shows that the South side also has no intention to contribute to the work of the union. Now that, through the North-South sports talks, the South and the North have agreed in principle upon the question of participating in the 11th Asian Games as a single team, we think that the question of forming a North-South single delegation to attend the IPU conference, as well, can be easily realized if we have the intention.

If the North and the South form a single delegation and attend the IPU conference, we will be able to demonstrate to the world our nation's will for national reunification and will receive active support and praise not only from our people, but also from the people of the world.

The South side should respond to our sincere proposal to pool efforts of the North and the South, not seeking confrontation, in international organizations in conformity with the demands of the present international situation, which is seeking detente.

We will continue to make active efforts to form a North-South single delegation to the IPU conferences, in the future as well.

[Dated] 23 January 1990, Pyongyang

Possibility of U.S. Surprise Attack Viewed

SK2901054690 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0533 GMT 29 Jan 90

["Danger Warning of Northward Invasion"—KCNA Headline]

[Text] Pyongyang January 29 (KCNA)—While speaking about "peace" and "detente" in other areas, the United States is heightening tensions in the Asia-Pacific region and, on the Korean peninsula in particular, racing headlong towards a war, NODONG SINMUN says in a commentary today.

Such stand of the United States, it notes, was clearly revealed again at a recent interview of U.S. Seventh Fleet Commander Henry Mauz with the Japanese newspaper ASAHI SIMBUN.

Drawing attention to the fact that the words "a dispute may occur on the Korean peninsula" rolled off his tongue on the eve of "Team Spirit-90" joint military exercises, the analyst says:

Considering that the U.S. imperialists made a surprise attack on the Panamanian territory while they were staging a war game after concentrating troops there, Mauz's words call forth the caution of the people as to the possibility of war which the United States may start against the North on the Korean peninsula, too, at any time behind the smokescreen of the "Team Spirit" manoeuvres.

For this purpose they do not need detente but heightened tensions on the Korean peninsula, not arms cuts but its buildup and an excuse to ignite a war. For this very reason did Mauz say his fleet needs to deploy in the surroundings of the Korean peninsula its warships on a certain scale.

His words are a danger warning of a war of Northward invasion, the commentary says, adding:

Heightened tensions and danger of war prevailing on the Korean peninsula due to the U.S. imperialists' aggressive moves are a grave threat to peace in Asia and the rest of the world.

The United States must stop its dangerous military adventures including the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises on the Korean peninsula and withdraw its forces and nuclear weapons from South Korea.

U.S. Air Exercises in South Denounced

SK2901060890 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0524 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Text] Pyongyang January 29 (KCNA)—The Pacific Airforce Command of the U.S. imperialist aggression forces brought to South Korea premeditatedly eight nuclear-capable "F-16" fighter-bombers from Japan and other overseas aggression bases at about 10:00 on January 27 and staged a nuclear air strike exercise simulating their invasion of the North for the purpose of increasing the "capacity of actual war" of the criminal "Team Spirit 90" war game to invade the North, according to military sources.

In order to stage the nuclear air strike exercise under conditions of actual war, the U.S. imperialists brought even the "KC-130" air refueling plane to South Korea from their overseas aggression base Guam on January 26 and hurled it into the war game.

From 08:00 to 12:00 on January 27 they let formations of transport planes "C-130" and "C-141" carrying a large number of U.S. imperialist aggression troops to be thrown into the "Team Spirit 90" manoeuvres to invade the North touch down at their airforce bases in South Korea one after another from their overseas aggression bases in the Pacific, raising a row.

On the 26th and 27th, they brought to South Korea "A-6" assault planes and even "AV-8" vertical take-off and landing planes from their overseas aggression bases and let them fly above South Korea for long hours in a frantic war exercise against the Northern half of Korea.

These reckless war exercises staged every day fully show that the U.S. imperialists' war preparations to invade the North have entered a very grave stage.

Paper Carries Kim Il-song's 1952 Speech

SK1701043890 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0411 GMT 18 Jan 90

["NODONG SINMUN Carries 'The Tasks and Role of the Local Organs of Power at the Present Stage,' Work of President Kim Il-song"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang January 18 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN, the organ of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, today carries "Tasks for Consolidating People's Power", the third part of "The Tasks and Role of the Local Organs of Power at the Present Stage," a speech delivered by the great leader President Kim Il-song at a joint meeting of people's committee chairmen and leading party functionaries of provinces, cities and counties on February 1, 1952.

In the speech, President Kim Il-song clarifies in an all-round way the character and characteristic feature of people's power and its functions and duty and sets forth tasks to strengthen people's power.

In the third part of the work "Tasks for Consolidating People's Power" he elaborates tasks to be carried out in order to strengthen people's power organs during the past fatherland liberation war.

Referring to the tasks to strengthen people's power, he says:

First, a struggle must be waged against the ideological hangovers from the days of Japanese imperialism and the remnants of obsolete feudal ideas, and against their manifestation—the bureaucratic style of work.

The ideological hangovers from the days of Japanese imperialism do tremendous harm to our work in every respect. Of course, it is impossible to root out these old ideological remnants in a short span of time. A long-term, persistent struggle is needed.

To combat the ideological vestiges of Japanese imperialism, we should intensify political education among the people and energetically set about patiently explaining and bringing government policies home to the broad masses.

Why are the ideological survivals from the time of Japanese imperialism so much in evidence with us, above all in running the government?

Because they were in colonial bondage to Japanese imperialism for nearly half a century, the Korean people have had no government of their own and, accordingly, no experience in running one. Those few who ever served in power organs are pro-Japanese elements and a very few elders who participated in the feudal government of the Yi Dynasty before.

What the vast majority of our functionaries saw and heard in the past were things Japanese. The Japanese imperialists ruled the Korean people by bureaucracy and police methods. Consequently, even those who did not serve in Japanese imperialism's ruling organs, let alone those who did, were naturally affected by its ideology.

Some of the functionaries in the people's power organs have not yet got rid of all survivals of this ideology. Oblivious of the fact that they are the people's representatives, elected by the people, they behave like officials of Japanese imperialist days and dictate to the people.

Without stopping such bureaucratic acts on the part of the functionaries of the people's power organs, we cannot strengthen bonds with the people, and no decision or law, however good, can be effective. We must realize that we are not bureaucrats but servants of the people, elected by them.

Besides fighting against excessive acts of bureaucracy, we must combat the bureaucratic work style which finds expression in all work in one way or another.

Instead of paying heed to the voice of the people, meeting their demands and using the method of explanation and persuasion in doing their work, some of our cadres issue orders and commands to the people and bring pressure to bear upon them, so that they divorce themselves from the people.

These bureaucrats do not bother to find out what the masses want but assert that everything they do is right, nor do they bother to heed the advice of others or the voice of the masses. When such persons go down to the localities, they do not pay attention to the voice of the people but listen only to flatterers and are comforted by their false reports. They abuse subordinates who advance any different opinion, thus giving them no opportunity to tell their superiors their opinions on the work. Therefore, the lower units only report what is good to the higher organs and try to conceal what is bad as best they can for fear that higher organs or other people learn about it.

These things happen because people at the higher levels hold down their subordinates for no reason and because they do not carefully study the troubles and hardships confronting the lower units, help them smooth out difficulties and provide them with conditions for achieving success in their work.

Also, when they undertake some work, the bureaucrats do not widely enlist subordinates and activists in it, but take it upon themselves and try to carry it out on their own authority, thus making a mess of it. We must combat this bureaucratic style of doing things in an arbitrary manner. Many of our power organs often adopt decisions conflicting with local conditions, because they pay no heed to the opinions of the lower units and are not well acquainted with how matters stand with them. Even if they adopt good decisions, they do not bring the creative initiative of the masses into full play in implementing them but execute them in a bureaucratic way, with the result that things go amiss.

Survivals of Japanese imperialist ideas which linger in our minds also find expression in the fact that some of our functionaries do not work as one with the masses but behave like bureaucrats or aristocrats. Cadres never take part in voluntary labour service such as road repair work but only mobilize the people for it. These functionaries were ordinary people themselves until yesterday, but now that they have either been elected or appointed people's committee chairman or internal security substation head, they think it is beneath their dignity to work with the people. What a shameful and deplorable thing! What is wrong with working with the people, breathing the same air as they and explaining things to them in times of hardship? Nothing is more honourable than working with the people. Nevertheless, some of our functionaries lose sight of the people once they come to hold the post of "head". We must fight against such goings-on.

The functionaries of the organs of people's power must be genuine workers for the people, who rely on the people in work, pay regard to their interests, persuade and educate them instead of dictating to them, always learn from them and serve them in all sincerity.

Noting that exposing and rectifying the shortcomings in the work of the power organs and eliminating the ideological remnants of Japanese imperialism and the bureaucratic style of work still found in some of the functionaries does not mean that we should not combat the petty-bourgeois ideas of the peasants, President Kim Il-song says:

Among the peasantry there are progressive peasants but there are also backward ones who only look after their own well-being without caring about the interests of the state. We should do all we can to support the toiling peasants but, at the same time, struggle against the greedy, backward peasants who seek to get a good living only for themselves by taking advantage of the hardships of others.

Second, we must ensure victory in the fatherland liberation war by increasing production and practising economy.

The war is still going on, and the enemy will not quit our soil tomorrow. We must fight on until the enemy stops his aggression.

Our factories should ensure smooth production and produce more in spite of the difficult wartime conditions. They should do this in order to turn out war supplies and daily necessities in large quantities to meet the demands of both the front and the rear.

The peasants should increase grain production.

We must devote all our efforts to the struggle for increased production to satisfy the demands of the front and stabilize the people's livelihood.

We should endeavour to turn out for ourselves everything needed in the war, which can be produced in our country. It is wrong to look simply to foreign aid instead of producing what we can produce by our own efforts.

He points to the economic tasks confronting the people's committees at all levels at that time such as to give correct guidance in agriculture and guidance to turn out war supplies and daily necessities in larger quantities, to stabilize the people's livelihood by organizing goods distribution properly, to take measures to meet in kind the daily needs of the factory and office workers, to stringently economize on food and materials and distribute them properly, and to tighten financial discipline.

President Kim Il-song continues:

third, the functionaries of the people's power organs should organize and lead administrative work properly.

1. To give correct guidance to the work of the people's power organs, it is necessary, above all, to organize all work in a planned way and increase the leading functionaries' sense of responsibility.

The functionaries of our party and government bodies should have a deep sense of responsibility in everything they do. They should draw up correct plans for carrying out all work after making a deep study and detailed analysis.

After a plan has been mapped out, organizational work is needed to put it into effect.

Then it is essential to organize a checkup on how the plan has been carried out. The checkup should be done not merely for its own sake but to help correct shortcomings. It should be conducted personally by responsible functionaries and not by subordinates.

You must learn to take stock of any work when it is completed or in the course of carrying it out and turn the experience you have gained this way to good account in your future activities.

Along with this, all work should be guided not in a general, uniform way but in an analytic, concrete way.

2. In their activities, the city and county people's committees should put stress on the ri people's committees.

The ri people's committee is the lowest level organ of power which is in direct contact with the people. That the city and the county people's committees should lay the main emphasis on the work of the ri people's committee means, therefore, that priority in their work should be given to the rural areas and factories. The masses are not to be found in the offices of the city and county people's committees but in the rural areas and factories. The work of a people's committee divorced from the masses will produce no results but will turn into a bureaucratic affair.

3. You should not conduct work arbitrarily but do it collectively. You ought not to take all work upon yourselves and thus make a mess of it, but give assignments to many people and organize and encourage them to use their initiative in carrying them out. Only then can you achieve success.

You should become functionaries who know how to organize work carefully, how to direct it in a concrete way and how to mobilize the masses in the course of carrying it out, and you should set an example to people in everything you do.

4. You should know how to allocate and appoint cadres properly.

An end should be put to such a practice as appointing cadres without carefully studying them and transferring them right and left. You should know that to study the cadres constantly and train them well is to strengthen the people's committee.

5. Efforts should be made to raise the political and theoretical levels of the people's committee functionaries at all levels.

Every political worker should become a fighter who has a correct understanding of the party's political line and government policies, who brings them home to the masses and strives devotedly for the party and the people. Political workers should firmly equip themselves with the Marxist-Leninist world outlook so that they will have an unshakable faith in the justness of our cause and its victory and be able to organize and direct work with foresight.

You should carry out all these tasks successfully, thus increasing the functions and role of our people's power organs and mobilizing the strength of the entire people for victory.

Friendship Gathering Held With Chinese Envoys

SK2501234790 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1515 GMT 25 Jan 90

[Text] Pyongyang January 25 (KCNA)—The International Department of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] today arranged a friendship gathering with officials of the Chinese Embassy in Pyongyang on the spring festival.

Present there were director Kim Yong-sun and vice-directors Kim Chae-pong and Kim Yang-kon of a department of the WPK Central Committee, and other officials concerned.

Chinese Ambassador to Korea Wen Yezhan and his embassy officials were invited.

The participants appreciated a Korean feature film.

It was followed by a party, which was addressed by Director Kim Yong-sun and Ambassdor Wen Yezhan.

Friendship Gathering Held With Cuban Envoys

SK2501234690 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1517 GMT 25 Jan 90

[Text] Pyongyang January 25 (KCNA)—A friendship gathering with officials of the Cuban Embassy in Pyongyang took place today at the Korea-Cuba friendship Pyongyang Moranbong Senior Middle School No. 1 on the occasion of the 137th birth anniversary of Jose Marti, national hero of Cuba.

It was attended by officials concerned and teachers and students of the school.

Present on invitation were Cuban Ambassador to Korea Juan Jose Leon Vega and his embassy officials.

The attendants went round the "class named after Jose Marti" and saw a performance given by the art circle members of the school.

The further development of the daily deep-going relations of friendship and cooperation between the Korean and Cuban peoples is topic of attendants' conversation at the gathering which proceeded in a friendly atmosphere.

Coal Mining Industry Ministries Set Up

SK2601050390 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0422 GMT 26 Jan 90

[Text] Pyongyang January 26 (KCNA)—The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, promulgated a decree of the Central People's Committee of the DPRK dated January 25.

According to the decree, the Mining Industry Commission of the Administration Council of the DPRK is dissolved to be divided into the Ministry of Coal Industry and the Ministry of Mining Industry.

Transport Workers Increase Freight Turnover

SK2501235390 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1459 GMT 25 Jan 90

[Text] Pyongyang January 25 (KCNA)—Transport workers across the country under the Ministry of Railways are bringing about a new upswing in freight turnover.

This year they have carried 40,000 more tons of freight on a daily average than in the fourth quarter of last year.

In recent 20 days they transported 5,000 more tons of coal and tens of thousands of more tons of iron ore, fertilizers and chemicals on a daily average than in the second half of last year.

The ministry has tapped reserves for wagons and made 3,000 or more serviceable in a short span of time and concentrated them on major freight haulage. As a result, the transport of iron ore to the major metallurgical centers including Kim Chaek and Hwanghae Iron Snd steel Complexes increased 1.2 times, that of coal to thermal power plants 1.3 times, cement to waterway projects 2 times and fertilizers to farms 1.3 times.

Steel Works Construction Accelerated

SK2501235290 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1502 GMT 25 Jan 90

[Text] Pyongyang January 25 (KCNA)—The construction of a steel works with a capacity of two million tons is going full steam ahead in Korea.

The works which is being built at the Chollima Steel Complex will produce steel and various kinds of rolled steel in reliance upon domestic fuel and raw materials.

The new steel works which will have the steel workshop, the lime roasting furnace workshop, the fire-proof material factory and many other production and auxiliary buildings is of weighty significance in satisfying the growing demands of the national economy for steel.

The builders are now pushing ahead with plottage rezoning and yard road and railway projects and other preparatory construction and pile project.

The constructors in charge of the pile project of the steel workshop are overfulfilling their daily assignments and the builders in charge of laying roadbeds for railways are now carrying out their daily quotas at more than 150 per cent.

Dwelling houses for more than 15,000 families and cultural and welfare establishments will be built in a few years to come along with the construction of the works.

Agricultural Workers Seek Upsurge in Production

SK2401222290 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1502 GMT 24 Jan 90

[Text] Pyongyang January 24 (KCNA)—Farmers in the countryside of Korea held meetings to declare their participation in the socialist emulation for effecting a great upsurge in agricultural production this year in response to the call of the Chongsan cooperative farm on January 15.

The Yokpo cooperative farm in Yokpo District, Pyongyang, determined to harvest more than 10 tons of grain per hectare of paddy and non-paddy fields and over 300 tons on vegtables per hectare and top by far this year's quotas for other production including meat and silkworm.

The Raerim cooperative farm in Chaeryong County, South Hwanghae province, set itself the goal to produce more than 10,000 tons of grain this year and increase the output of meat, vegetables, fruit and industria crops 1.2 times over last year.

The Panmunjom cooperative farm in Panmun county, Kaesong, vowed to produce 11 tons of rice per hectare this year and boost the output of meat, vegetables, fruit and silkworm 1.2 times over last year.

The Ponghak cooperative farm in Pyongsong, South Pyongan Province, the Sogok cooperative farm in Sinhung County, South Hamgyong Province, and other cooperative farms across the country vowed to make this year, the first year of the 90s a bumper year by harvesting 8, 9 or 10 tons of grain from each hectare of paddy and non-paddy fields.

Medical Data Process Program Developed

SK2201233390 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1506 GMT 22 Jan 90

[Text] Pyongyang January 22 (KCNA)—A living body data process program has been developed at Pyongyang University of Medicine.

It is an automatic apparatus which diagnoses a case by analysing faint electric signs from a human body with a computer.

Its scope of use is very wide, being capable of carrying out quickly on a more scientific basis all checkups done by electrocardiograph, electroencephalograph, pulsimeter and other separate weak-current apparatuses.

The program correctly presents on a computer display infinitesimal waves and momentary waves which the cardiograph and the pulsimeter fail to catch. And it guarantees scientific accuracy of diagnosis by analysing and comparing the newly obtained data with those stocked in memory.

The living body data process program can be easily used by anyone without expert knowledge.

It was made jointly by Yi Sung and Ha Yong-chan of the medical instrument course of the university.

Iron and Steel Production Increased

SK1901220490 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1510 GMT 19 Jan 90

[Text] Pyongyang January 19 (KCNA)—The Korean metal workers are waging a high-pitched drive for increased production.

Wi Hyong-kyun, director of the Production Guidance Bureau of the Ministry of Metal Industry, said that the output of pig iron jumped 30 percent and that of steel 12 percent in the first 17 days of January above the corresponding time of December last year under the ministry.

The Kim Chaek Iron and Steel Complex, a leading metallurgical base, boosted pig iron and steel output tens of thousands of tons in the period by actively introducing new technologies and advanced work method.

Pig iron output at the Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex picked up 80 percent and steel and rolled steel output 50 percent in the afore-said period.

In the same period, the Musan Mining Complex lifted concentrated iron ore output nearly 100,000 tons to greatly help the Kim Chaek Iron and Steel Complex maintain steady production.

A production upsurge has also been reported from the Chollima Steel Complex and the Songjin Steel Complex.

South Korea

Assistant Minister on PRC Contacts Resumption

SK2801035190 Seoul Television Service in Korean 1200 GMT 27 Jan 90

[Comments by Yi Chong-pin, assistant minister of Foreign Affairs, on the resumption of governmental contact between the ROK and the PRC—report by anchorwoman Sin Un-kyong, with reporter Ko Tae-yong.]

[Text] [Anchorwoman Sin Un-kyong] The ROK and China have recently resumed governmental contact, which had been interrupted by the Tiananmen incident, and it has been disclosed that the governments of the two countries are discussing such issues as improving relations and the simultaneous entry by North and South Korea into the UN. Reporter Ko Tae-yong will give you further details.

[Begin Ko Tae-yong recording] A high-ranking official of the government disclosed that, at the request of the Chinese, contact between the ROK and China resumed toward the end of last year. This official also said that improvement of relations between the two countries is being discussed in-depth, and that the establishment of trade offices, as well as other issues, are under way. First Assistant Secretary of Foreign Affairs Yi Chong-pin also said that, although he cannot confirm it at this stage, official contact between the two countries and efforts to improve relations are under way, thus virtually admitting the resumption of contact between the Governments of the ROK and China. [end recording]

[Begin Yi Chong-pin recording with video] Under the circumstances—where there are some 30,000 visitors—we are making efforts for improving relations between the two countries and we can tell you that we will make greater efforts in the future. [end recording]

[Begin Ko Tae-yong recording] Assistant Minister Yi Chong-pin stressed that the Korean Government will push ahead this year with the improvement of relations with China and the Soviet Union, based on its policy of actively seeking a solution to the problem of the Korean peninsula. He added that since the policies of China and the Soviet Union are on the same track as our policy, namely, peaceful coexistence between the North and the South, he sees no reason why the two countries should oppose the simultaneous entry by North and South Korea into the UN. [end recording]

[Begin Yi Chong-pin recording with video] We think that if we make efforts to help these countries improve their awareness of these practical issues through various avenues and win their cooperation, we will quickly achieve our entry into the UN. [end recording]

[Begin Ko Tae-yong recording] However, Assistant Minister Yi said that it is not certain at this stage whether the ROK will submit a proposal for its entry to the UN to the General Assembly this fall. [end recording]

Inter-Korean Sports Talks End in Stalemate

SK2901072290 Seoul YONHAP in English 0711 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Text] Panmunjom, Korea, Jan. 29 (YONHAP)—Hope of fielding a single South-North Korean team in the Beijing Asian Games later this year faded Monday as inter-Korean sports talks remained stalemated.

South and North Korea, in their eighth round of talks on putting together a joint athletic delegation to the Asiad in September, failed to make any progress during two and half hours of discussion at this truce village.

It was agreed to try again in another round of talks on Feb. 7 at the same place.

In Monday's talks, the South insisted on signing an additional accord to guarantee the implementation of agreements reached in the seven plenary and five working-level contacts to date.

The North rejected the addendum and demanded the 10 points so far agreed on be documented.

The extra clauses the South hopes to sign include sending a letter to the Beijing Asian Games Organizing Committee to the effect that the two Koreas will take part in the Asiad as separate teams if the agreements between them are not fulfilled.

Seoul reminded Pyongyang of the failure to form a single Korean team to the World Table Tennis Championships in the North Korean capital in 1979 as one of the reasons for its demand for the additional accord.

The North insisted such problems could be discussed after a joint committee to work on dispatch of the single contingent is set up, and called for early documentation of the agreements.

Seoul's insistence on the safeguard accord is apparently rooted in a fear that Pyongyang might renounce the agreements at the last minute so that South Korea cannot participate in the Asiad in Beijing, with which Seoul has no diplomatic ties.

Chang Chung-sik, Seoul's chief delegate to the sport talks, told reporters after the meeting, "North Korea seems to aim at staging political propaganda once the 10-point agreement is concluded and has no genuine intention to materialize the plan.

Chang's North Korean counterpart, Kim Hyong-chin, in a separate press meeting, called on South Korea to withdraw the additional accord, saying, "today's meeting revealed which side is more ardently seeking progress in the talks."

The Beijing Asian Games begin Sept. 22 and both sides have little time if they really wish to send a single team given that selection of athletes through preliminary competition will take a considerable time.

Both sides have agreed on basic matters, such as the name and flag of the unified team.

Report on Talks

SK2901075490 Seoul Domestic Service in Korean 0500 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Text] The North-South sports talks for forming a North-South single team to participate in the Asian Games in Beijing have broken down due to the North side's unilateral demand for withdrawal of seven points stipulated in the supplementary rules in the written agreement.

Reporter Paek Nam-pom will report more from the secretariat of the North-South dialogue.

[Begin Paek recording] In keynote speeches made during the 8th round of the North-South sports talks which began at 1000 this morning in Tongilgak, located in the North side's area at Panmunjom, the North and the South insisted that the delay in exchanging written agreements is the other side's responsibility, thus repeating their previous assertions. The talks ended at 1220 without even beginning the work of drafting the agreement.

In particular, Kim Hyong-chin, the North Korean side's senior delegate, said that the South side created obstacles to the talks in the past, and repeatedly demanded the total withdrawal of seven points stipulated in the supplementary rules of the written agreement which the South Korean side put forward.

Prior to this, Chang Chung-sik, our side's senior delegate, stated that of the seven points in the supplementary rules which are at issue, the points over which both sides practically failed to narrow the differences in views are the issue of interpreting the terminology, the issue on actions to be taken when the agreement is not implemented and the issue of observing the schedule. He then proposed settling the talks by intensively discussing these issues.

However, the North Korean side insisted that the written agreements on the basic 10 points on which the agreement was already reached should be exchanged first. As the result of this, the practical discussion of the issue of ensuring the implementation of the agreements was deadlocked.

Both the North and the South agreed to hold the 9th round of talks in the House of Peace in our side's area at Panmunjom on 7 February.

At the beginning of today's talks, the North Korea side brought to the reporter's room the pictures of the concrete wall which it claimed the South Korean side built in the Demilitarized Zone and waged a large-scale propaganda offensive, noting that the South Korean side is maneuvering for permanent division.

Making public before the television reporters a 3-meter-long picture of the barrier, the North Korean side raised an issue which has nothing to do with sports, thus making the prospect of talks gloomy.

Prosecutors Demand Life Imprisonment for Rev Mun

SK2901133190 Seoul YONHAP in English 1234 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 29 (YONHAP)—Public prosecutors demanded life imprisonment Monday for the Rev. Mun Ik-hwan, the dissident South Korean who started a furious controversy with a trip to North Korea without prior permission, in an appellate court here as they did in the lower court trial.

Mun was sentenced to 10 years in prison on Oct. 5 by the Seoul Criminal District Court for violating the National Security Law and aiding Pyongyang during his trip there early last year.

The same demand was made for Yu Won-ho, Mun's companion on the trip, to whom the same sentence had been handed down.

Senior prosecutor of the Seoul High Prosecutors' Office Kim Kyu-sop said, "Both defendants met with North Korean leader Kim Il-song in Pyongyang to slander the South Korean authorities and subscribe to North Korea's unification method characterized by the communization of the whole Korean peninsula."

The senior prosecutor stressed that the 10-year-prison sentence at the first trial was too slight for their crimes and demanded that they both be sentenced to life imprisonment.

Mun and Yu entered North Korea on March 25 via Tokyo and Beijing and were arrested immediately on their return at Seoul's Kimpo International Airport on April 13.

Capitalist South Korea bans contact with communist North Korea without government permission. Korea was divided into two parts at the end of World War II and both Koreas fought a fratricidal war between 1950 and 1953.

Mun was sent back to Jail on Jan. 24 after a nine-day check up at the Seoul National University Hospital.

The trial to sentence Mun and Yu will be held on Feb. 10.

Article Notes Changes in North Power Hierarchy

SK2701103090 Seoul SEOUL SINMUN in Korean 24 Jan 90 p 5

[Article by Tokyo correspondent Kang Su-ung]

[Text] The drastic changes in North Korea's hierarchy of power are clear proof of how intense the dispute surrounding reform and openness within North Korea, which adheres to closed doors and isolationism, is. Experts on North Korean issues in Tokyo point out that currently, advocates of openness and reform have been demoted in the hierarchy of power or completely eliminated. However, the spread of the desire for openness is a potentiality that can bring about changes in North Korea, a country completely cut off from the outside world.

As shown in the table below on changes in hierarchy of power in North Korea, among the 30 top persons, all but three—Kim Il-song, Kim Chong-il, and O Chin-u—have been completely reshuffled during the past year. A completely unknown figure, Kim Yun-hyok, has suddenly risen up to sixth place, while Chon Pyong-ho, who was 11th in the hierarchy, has been left out of the list altogether.

Pak Song-chol, who was in charge of foreign affairs, has placed from fourth to sixth position since December 1988. However, he was abruptly demoted to 18th position in November 1989. Japanese experts on North Korean issues revealed that Pak visited Moscow on orders from Kim Il-song in October 1989 and secretly met with Gorbachev.

After his return from Moscow, while giving a report on his visit, it was learned that Pak insisted: "Unless we accept Gorbachev's advice to carry out openness and reform, we cannot expect economic cooperation in areas such as the oil supply. Therefore, reform is also necessary in North Korea." Pak's report touched off various disputes surrounding the issue of reform within North Korea, but Pak was defeated and demoted to 18th position in the hierarchy. North Korea, along with Albania, are countries that are unique in the world in maintaining their core socialist system and father-son succession system. Therefore, it is very unlikely that North Korea would accept a reform policy such as Gorbachev's perestroyka. It was learned that during the latter part of last year when Sigur, former U.S. assistant secretary of state visited Pyongyang, Pak was already demoted at that time, making it inevitable that Yi Chong-ok would receive Sigur in place of Pak.

Pak's defeat was not only bad for him; it also badly affected almost all of those in charge of economic relations. Furthermore, his defeat has brought about a collapse [mollak] in the military, which had maintained good ties with the Soviet Union and had insisted on improving relations with that country.

Choe Kwang, chief of the General Staff of the People's Armed Forces is about the same age as Kim Il-song. Both participated in the anti-Japanese guerrilla activities. He was recently appointed to the top-brain position of the military. However, Choe, who recently placed in 14th to 15th position, was demoted to 27th position due to the aftereffects of the dispute for reform. It is said that So Chol was demoted to 10th position from 7th position because of a chronic disease. Yun Ki-pok, who was a delegate for the North in the North-South Red Cross talks was not even in the hierarchy of power, but was restored to 20th position in November 1989. Well-informed sources from Japan revealed that these drastic changes in North Korea were the biggest of their kind since the seventies. In its 18 January edition, CHOSON SIBO, a paper published by Chochognyon [the pro-North Korean Residents League in Japan] reprinted a KCNA report on the 17th Plenum of the 6th Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, which was chaired by Kim Il-song and held from 5-9 January in Pyongyang. However, the report did not mention the change in the hierarchy of power. It was learned that this article reported the appointment of Yun Ki-pok as secretary of the Central Committee; that Ho Kuk-song was relieved from candidate membership of the Central Committee and elected as full member; and that Chu Sang-song, Kim Song-kyu, Yi Won-chae, Kim Pong-ul, Choe Ki-yong, Chu Yong-hun, Yi Tae-se, and Yi Hak-sop were elected as candidate members of the Central Committee.

This paper also revealed the list of party and state leaders with which President Kim Il-song exchanged New Year's greetings for the year 1990. From this list, it is possible to see the uneasy relationship between North Korea and the Soviet Union. According to the list, Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU, was listed 16th after Deng Xiaoping, China's highest leader; General Secretary Jiang Zemin; President Yang Shangkun; Premier Li Peng; Chen Yun, chairman of the Central Advisory Commission; Wan Li, chairman of the National People's Congress; Secretary Qiao Shi; Vice Premier Yao Yilin; Song Ping; Secretary Li Ruihuan; Chairman Li Xiannian; Vice Chairman Wang Zhen; Vice Chairman Song Renqiong; Peng Zhen, former chairman of the National People's Congress; and former Chairman Deng Yingchao.

This fact clearly shows that currently, North Korea is completely leaning toward China and is showing a strong rejection of the Soviet Union's perestroyka.

According to the analysis of well-informed sources from Tokyo, under such circumstances, officials in charge of economic affairs—such as Pak Song-chol, who recommended that North Korea open itself up—pro-Soviet elements within the military who insisted on improving relations with the Soviet Union, such as Choe Kwang, were regarded as "thorny elements" in the eyes of Kim Il-song and his son, and were eventually dropped from the hierarchy of power. Well-informed sources believe that there is a possibility that former Premier Yi Kun-mo was already liquidated in November 1988 and is now in a concentration camp. Experts on North Korean issues in Tokyo observe that a large-scale search for dissatisfied elements—so-called "ideological work" that is being carried out in North Korea—will bring about another political whirlwind.

The following is a table showing the changes in the power hierarchy in North Korea:

NAME	DEC 88	APR 89	MAY	SEPT	NOV	REMARKS
Kim Il-song*	1	1	1	1	1	member of the presidium of the Political Bureau
Kim Chong-il*	2	2	2	2	2	—
O Chin-u	3	3	3	3	3	—
Yon Hyong-muk	4	4	6	5	5	member of the Political Bureau
Kim Yun-hyok	—	—	—	—	6	—
Pak Song-chol	5	5	4	6	18	member of the Political Bureau
Yi Chong-ok	6	6	5	4	4	—
So Chul	7	7	7	7	10	—
Kim Yong-nam	8	8	8	8	7	—
Kye Ung-tae*	9	9	9	9	28	—
Ho Tam*	10	10	10	10	8	—
Chon Pyong-ho*	11	11	11	11	—	—
So Yun-sok	12	12	12	12	22	member of the Political Bureau
Kang Song-san	13	13	13	13	26	—
Hong Song-nam	14	17	17	17	19	candidate
Choe Kwang	15	14	14	14	27	—
Han Song-yong*	16	15	15	15	21	—
Hyun Mu-kwang	17	16	16	16	14	—
Kim Pok-sin	18	18	18	18	12	—
Cho Se-ung	19	19	19	19	24	—
Chong Chun-ki	20	20	20	20	13	—
Kang Hui-won	21	21	21	21	16	—
Hong Si-hak	22	22	22	22	25	—
Choe Tae-pok	23	23	23	23	11	secretary
Pak Nam-ki	24	24	24	24	23	—
So Kwan-hui	25	25	25	25	25	—
Hwang Chang-yop	26	26	26	26	9	—
Ho Chong-suk	27	27	27	27	17	—
Kim Chung-nin	28	28	28	28	15	—
Yun Ki-pok	—	—	—	—	20	—
Kim Hwan	—	—	—	—	23	—

(* party secretary)

Further Reportage on Three-Party Merger

NDRP Provincial Office Attacked

SK2901014290 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 29 Jan 90 p 3

[Text] Chonju, Chollabuk-to—A fire broke out at the New Democratic Republican Party (NDRP)'s Chonju district chapter office, apparently ignited by firebombs, causing about 1 million won worth of damage before it was put out, police said.

Police presume that the firebombs were hurled by student demonstrators who are critical of the merger of three conservative parties.

"After hearing windows being smashed, I saw a blaze and billows of smoke coming out of the party office on the second floor of the three-story building," said a witness who runs a Chinese restaurant on te building's first floor.

One of the fliers left behind by the protesters read, "Punish the No Tae-u regime and its collaborators with firebombs in the name of all people."

About a week ago a group of young demonstrators, looking like college students, threw firebombs at the Chonju office of the Labor Ministry and a closed cassette tape manufacturing company.

Kim Tae-chung 'Cautious'

SK2901021890 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 29 Jan 90 p 3

[Byn Staff Reporter Yu Kun-ha]

[Text] PPD [Party for Peace and Democracy] President Kim Tae-chung seems to be playing it cool and cautious in his fight to prevent the birth of a huge ruling party.

He also made it clear that although he would join hands with radical extraparliamentary groups to foil the bid, he would not form an outright alliance with them by inaugurating a new organization to direct the joint struggles.

Kim's emphasis on peaceful means of struggle may be seen as a conciliatory gesture toward the ruling camp. And the indication by a ruling party official that Kim may be freed from the lawsuit filed in connection with PPD Rep. So Kyong-won's visit to Pyongyang could be seen as a response to these gestures.

But Kim's proclaimed use of nonviolent means of protest seems to be hard to take at face value. Kim is in a sense forced by circumstance to announce, rhetorically, the abandonment of violent struggles.

Kim promised that the signature-collecting campaign, which he intends to launch after the special parliamentary session in February, would be promoted in an orderly manner and within legal bounds. This campaign may be unproblematic but if Kim seeks to hold massive outdoor rallies to decry the planned coalition of the three parties, it could be a different story. Yet, it is uncertain whether Kim intends to go this far.

Kim seems to be constrained by several factors in selecting his means of resistance. He may be aware of the change in popular sentiment about violent struggles. It could be argued that the public has become more apathetic and less sympathetic to undemocratic ways of expressing political dissent however good the cause they may support.

Another factor seems to be his inability to consolidate radical forces like university students who often outright reject parliamentary politics. Although his opponents have maliciously sought askance [as published] of his political line, especially his stance on national unification, Kim is a self-professed parliamentarian and upholds the principles of a market economy. Given his abhorrence to being projected as a radical, revolutionary politician, Kim cannot explicitly declare an alliance with radical groups.

But this does not necessarily mean that he will clearly distance himself from them either. He is expected to speak and behave cautiously to avoid the impression that he is inciting violent resistance, while at the same time actually taking advantage of radical groups.

The single most important factor leading Kim to profess the worth of peaceful struggles seems to be his fear that the ruling side will play the so-called politics of national security and capitalize on a popular "red complex."

This complex, based on what Kim regards as an unfounded fear of communism, was most recently manifested, PPD officials say, in the critical tone domestic editorial writers have used to denounce Kim's plan to send a PPD delegation to Pyongyang.

Despite the fact that President No Tae-u has agreed to the proposal, Kim was at the receiving end of devastating criticism for it.

Kim's fear of the recurrence of national security-dominated politics is evidenced, according to PPD officials, by his restraint to call for arms expenditure reductions in his new year news conference.

Kim decided not to mention the point out of concern that it might cause unnecessary misunderstandings which would blur his opposition to any artificial political restructuring.

Kim believes that as long as the National Security Act and other relevent laws are in effect, there is always the possibility that the ruling side will play the politics of national security that could persecute him and the PPD for making demands which "undermine" the security posture of the nation.

By declaring that he will fight peacefully, Kim intends to dilute his image of a belligerent and inflammatory politicians. At the same time, he justified his struggles by attributing the expected political instability to the ruling side. He also tried to show that there exists an impassible gulf between his [group] and radical extraparliamentary groups.

This political maneuvering is wise and thereby Kim may be able to avoid outright repression against him and his party. But will he really give up his traditional means of fighting the ruling camp mobilizing the masses?

He will try to refrain from being directly involved in any effort to drive the masses into the streets.

Committee Considers Reforms

SK2901033490 Seoul YONHAP in English 0239 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 29 (YONHAP)—The huge conservative party to be created by merging the ruling party with two opposition parties will actively undertake political and economic reforms to revise "undemocratic laws" and support stable growth of South Korea's economy, a knowledgeable source said Monday.

President No Tae-u's Democratic Justice Party (DJP), Kim Yong-sam's Reunification Democratic Party (RDP) and Kim Chong-pil's New Democratic Republican Party (NDRP) will form a joint floor negotiating group after national party conventions to approve their merger this or next week and will introduce a bill to amend the laws in a special National Assembly session in mid-February, the source said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The three parties basically share the view that the "toxic articles" of the stiff National Security Law and the law on the Agency for National Security Planning (NSP) should be rewritten or abolished and a law on police neutrality be legislated, the source said.

The target provisions stipulate, among other things, that contacting a communist state without government permission is punishable by imprisonment. The clause on failure to report knowledge of a violation of the National Security Law will also be eased, the source said.

The NSP's powers of investigation will be trimmed to restore the people's trust in the security agency, formerly the Korea Central Intelligence Agency.

The 15-member preparatory committee for the alliance held its second meeting Monday and discussed the democratic reforms as well as procedures for the creation of the tentatively named Democratic Liberal Party (DLP), party regulations, platform and organizations.

The committee has agreed that a policy-coordinating body be created to effectively push for the reform measures.

The coordinating body will handle economic reforms such as the implementation of real-name financial transactions and the concept of public land ownership, and take steps to eradicate the legacies of the previous government.

The moves by the three parties are partly seen as a response to public worries that the creation of the huge conservative party, unprecedented in Korea's constitutional history, may slow the pace of democratic reforms, which the two former opposition parties and Kim Tae-chung's Party for Peace and Democracy had strongly called for, observers said.

The three parties will complete registration of the merger by February under an agreement between No and the two Kims Jan. 22 and hold a national convention in May, at the earliest, to form the DLP coalition, which will be modeled after Japan's faction-wracked ruling Liberal Democratic Party.

The alliance prompted stubborn resistance from Kim Tae-chung, who was virtually excluded and apparently fears that it may reduce his chance for the presidency and even isolate him.

But the moves seem not to be well-organized and will be unable to pose a threat to both a new opposition party or Kim Tae-chung's PPD, the observers said.

'Love of Power' Led to Merger

SK2901022690 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 29 Jan 90 pp 2, 3

[News analysis by staff reporter Yi Song-yol—"Kim Yong-sam's Gambit in Merger"]

[Text] The shocking decision Jan. 22 to merger three of the nation's four political parties was made out of political power interests.

Otherwise, it would be very difficult to explain why Kim Yong-sam, leader of the Reunification Democratic Party [RDP] which he called the sole legitimate opposition, even dared think of shaking hands with the ruling Democratic Justice Party [DJP], and vise versa.

Love of power made the three heterogeneous groups—the DJP, the RDP, and New Democratic Republican Party [NDRP] led by Kim Chong-pil—agree to unite, and their declared merger is seen as a peculiar compromise in which the parties, pessimistic of seizing power next time independently, have agreed to share the power by making a few mutual concessions.

Actually, shortly after the announcement of the merger, issues attracting the most attention were on whether the Constitution will be changed to replace the presidential government system with a parliamentary system, and whether Kim Yong-sam will become prime minister under the changed government system after President No Tae-u steps down Feb. 24, 1993.

Kim's popular image as a fighter for democracy has thus been considerably diluted. Some people denounce his political ambition and some say he is deceived by the DJP and the NDRP.

Every political party has been thinking what will happen after No steps down. For the ruling party, some kind of changes have been needed in the political structure since the April, 1988 National Assembly election, in which it garnered less than 40 percent of the parliamentary seats.

It was the first time in the nation's political history that the ruling party had ever failed to be the majority party. The 1987 presidential election was a close match which it might have lost if Kim Yong-sam and Kim Tae-chung had not split the vote and if the DJP had not had No Tae-u with his historic June 1988 democratic reform declaration.

When looking ahead to the next presidential election, the ruling party is far from sure it will win again. It has few prominent figures that match the two Kims and the two Kims will likely be forced to agree to put up a single candidate.

A cabinet system may give the DJP a higher chance of remaining in power, even in a coalition government, but it requires approval of two-thirds of the total 299 lawmakers.

The DJP, with 127 Assembly seats, doesn't have it, without cooperation from Kim Tae-chung's Party for Peace and Democracy with 71 seats, or from both the RDP (59 seats) and the NDRP (35 seats).

Early last year, the DJP weighed a possibility of a political alliance with the PPD, which it regards as the hawkish opposition, but soon gave it up following the controversy of unauthorized North Korean visits by the Rev. Mun Ik-hwan and Yim Su-kyong, a college coed.

Noting that an alliance with the NDRP along would not be sufficient for a new political framework, the ruling side dared to lure Kim Yong-sam in several secret contacts.

Here started a political deal through mutual concession and cooperation for the sake of bilateral interest and benefit, with the traditional notion of hostile relations between the ruling and opposition parties, or democratic and antidemocratic forces, out the window.

As for Kim Yong-sam, who scored second in the last presidential election, the chance for his becoming the nation's next president receded since the was reduced to leader of the No. 2 opposition party.

He also needed some changes, changes that would help restore his political influence, popularity and superiority over the other Kim so that his life-long dream of seizing power could be realized in February 1993.

But it things continue, with the political situation controlled mostly by the DJP and his archrival Kim Tae-chung, he may not be able to run for president next time because of an unprecedented enormous popular pressure for the opposition to offer a single candidate.

So he welcomed the DJP suggestion, despite the widespread demand for union with the PPD, running the risk that his political image may be scarred.

That's why those who attack the three-party merger charge that it was done not out of political or popular needs but by partisan interests seeking power.

With the revolutionary merger, a way for long-time rule by conservative forces would be open, but it remains to be seen whether or not such an artificial political reshaping will serve the national development.

Kim Tae-chung, who is left alone as the sole opposition leader, is expected to prepare harsh antigovernment struggles, and it is not certain as yet whether a 1.5 versus-0.5 structure will truly contribute to the political stability that the three parties say they are aiming at with their merger.

Editorial Skeptical of Merger

SK2701012690 Seoul HANGYORE SINMUN in Korean 23 Jan 90 p 6

[Editorial: "A Giant Ruling Party's 'National Salvation and Reunification' Slogan Is a Lie—A Great Democratic Alliance Is Called For To Break Asunder the Great Conservative Alliance"]

[Text] The news that the Democratic Justice Party [DJP], the Sixth Republic's ruling party; the Reunification Democracy Party [RDP], the opposition party holding long conservative traditions; and the New Democratic Republican Party [NDRP], a party that claims to be "the mainstream Yusin force," have agreed to form a new political party rocked the country to the core Sunday evening. It has often been reported that RDP President Kim Yong-sam and NDRP President Kim Chong-pil frequently meet with each other at the golf course, discussing the issue of merging their parties as a matter of course, and that "a great conservative alliance" would emerge when the DJP joined these discussions. Naive people, however, never thought that the RDP would join hands with the DJP, although they would not have been surprised if the DJP and the NDRP had merged. As predicted by NDRP President Kim Chong-pil, who said "there will be a great event that will surprise the whole world," it has been reported that a giant ruling party will be organized in the "form of a new political party based on a merger." There is no question that this will completely reverse the political situation in Korea.

A Great Conservative Alliance Built on "Friendship and Conviction"

In a meeting held at Chongwadae on 22 January, the presidents of the three parties discussed the formation of a new political party for a long time. According to news reports, which mainly quoted the remarks of President Kim Chong-pil, the new party, also known as the great conservative alliance, will have Mr No Tae-u as its president, Kim Yong-sam as its chairman, and Kim Chong-pil on the five-member leadership council. The new party is also reported to be seeking a revision of the Constitution during the 13th session of the National Assembly to introduce a parliamentary cabinet system. Of the 297 seats that constitute the National Assembly, the three parties account for 221. This figure, far more than the two-thirds needed to revise the Constitution, means that the new party can do anything it pleases, with the exception of changing a man into a woman.

Since last fall, Presidents Kim Yong-sam and Kim Chong-pil, while stressing their relationship as one of mutual friendship and conviction, have insisted that "political forces of the same colors" should merge with each other. In the end, their theory of "a great conservative alliance" has taken the shape of a merger with the DJP. By doing so, the presidents of the DJP, RDP, and NDRP have proved, it seems, that they are politically of the same ideology. Are they?

This is a very dangerous thing to think. Political groups and organizations with long traditions cannot become identical in their "colors" in a short period of time simply because they find it necessary to do so. The "conservative colors" claimed by these political parties—which have shown their own unique differences from each other in the course of devising platforms on politics, economics, and democracy over their respective spans of ten years to half a century, translating them into practice, and in the course of building their own bases of support and maintaining ties with outside forces in a bid to defend or expand their vested interests or to come to power—are a chicanery. The merger of the three parties is, simply put, based on such a deception.

The Matchmaker Is Another Yi Wan-yong [the person who was chiefly responsible for the annexation of Korea to Japan in 1905]

There is no question that these three parties are all conservative, but their conservative natures are very different from each other.

First of all, for its base of support, the DJP claims monopoly state capitalists, military and administrative bureaucrats, and technocrats, as well as politicians, capitalists, and bureaucrats who have repeatedly committed antinational acts and comprador undertakings since the era of Japanese imperialism, as well as forces hailing from certain regions that have enjoyed vested interests or privileges under the successive dictatorships.

In certain areas, the RDP's political base of support is identical to that of the DJP, but on the whole, they are poles apart. RDP President Kim Yong-sam was a member of the old faction of the New Democratic Party, the political successor to the Korean Democratic Party, which was formed by big landowners and capitalists who had thrived under Japanese imperialist rule. Mr Kim Yong-sam has his main political base in Yongnam [the South Kyongsang Province], with Pusan at its center. His base of support is among the people who are above the middle class. It is true, however, that he was resented by those in the extreme right-wing ruling forces because he symbolizes traditional opposition politicians.

After joining in the 16 May coup d'etat led by Pak Chong-hui, one of his relatives, Mr Kim Chong-pil organized the Korean Central Intelligence Agency, a terrorist organization, and occupied an important post inside the forces that had led the coup by organizing the Democratic Republican Party in advance. He took a leading role behind the scenes in promoting the treacherous Korea-Japan talks, speaking for the interests of the U.S. Administration, which was trying to strengthen Korea as "a breakwater against communism" in the Far East as part of a tripartite alliance among Korea, the United States, and Japan. His saying in the early sixties that "I will normalize Korea-Japan relations at the risk of being viewed as another Yi Wan-yong" still remains etched in our minds.

Mr Kim Chong-pil is a politician who has constantly gravitated toward the system. He has always been one step away from political oppression. The only exception to this was his trip abroad after the confiscation of part of his wealth in 1980 immediately after the 17 May coup d'etat, when he was shoved off by none other than his own comrade Pak Chong-hui, with whom he had engineered the coup d'etat. He described the trip as having been arranged partly by his own decision and partly by the will of others. After winning 35 National Assembly seats in the 26 April general elections in 1988, thanks to the support of people hailing from his native region and with the assistance of those who long to revert to the old ways, he has claimed to be an opposition politician. He has done this over the past 2 years while revealing, without fail, his colors as a semigoverning party politician, through his political activity and legislative activity inside the National Assembly. Finally, he now seems to be enjoying his role as "a matchmaker" in the marriage of the extreme right-wing ruling party and the conservative opposition party, a stratey which he must think will allow him to fulfill his wild political ambitions.

Is It a Revival of Yusin Theory?

Messrs Kim Yong-sam and Kim Chong-pil said in unison that it is their aim to save the nation and to march with the party leading to "reunification," a road that must be taken to keep in step with the upheavals taking place in the international arena which will inevitably bring about changes in North Korea. We confirm that such a slogan bears a close resemblance to the false propaganda on "national prosperity and reunification" that Mr Pak Chong-hui touted in 1972 when he was engrossed in a political coup d'etat. Apart from Mr Kim Chong-pil, who has always been in step with the forces in power, what made Mr Kim Yong-sam suddenly join hands with the regime of the Sixth Republic, practically a continuation of the Fifth Republic? What disheartens most of the people who are concerned about the future of Korean politics, in the face of such a chaotically developing situation that is headed toward "a great conservative alliance," will be Mr Kim Yong-sam's unexpected change of mind. Even though he is not a politician who has suffered ordeals symbolized by imprisonment and torture, Mr Kim Yong-sam has remained an opposition politician for nearly 40 years since he won his National Assembly seat in his twenties. As a result of his excessive competition with Mr Kim Tae-chung in the 1987 presidential race, he failed to agree with Mr Kim Tae-chung on a single candidate. Both of them were criticized for that. Thanks to support from many people, however, he has been able to line up some politicians behind him. Nevertheless, after former President Chon Tu-hwan, he is the person who is regarded as chiefly responsible for misrule during the Fifth Republic and for the massacre in Kwangju, and who infuriated the people with his brazen-faced testimony full of lies before the National Assembly toward the end of last December. Mr Kim declared an end to the "effort to liquidate the Fifth Republic's legacies" and began calling for the elimination of "the struggle between democratic and antidemocratic forces and the distinction between the ruling and opposition parties."

Why did he join hands with those in unjust power at a time when prevailing public opinion holds that the military dictatorship of the Fifth Republic is reviving, when democratic labor unionists bent on building the National Council of Labor Unions are being greatly suppressed, when the freedom of thoughts and conscience are strangled in the sweet-sounding name of "defense of liberal democracy," and when democracy seems to be far away? It may be his "getting old" and his ambitions for power that are to blame.

If the new party embarks upon the road of revising the Constitution to introduce a parliamentary cabinet system, jockeying for power among the leaders of the DJP, RDP, and NDRP factions will become so fierce that it could blow up the new party. This being the case, without an agreement in advance among the leaders of the factions on power-sharing within the framework of a parliamentary cabinet system, the new party will find it hard to adopt such a system. The most appealing alternative to this will be the binary ruling system, which the Chon Tu-hwan regime once studied to stay in power indefinitely. The binary ruling system is one in which the president is in charge of defense and diplomatic affairs, while the prime minister devotes himself to internal administration.

Conscientious Forces Should Unite With Each Other

We are convinced that the plot hatched by those involved in the great conservative alliance who are bent on staying in dictatorial power indefinitely or on institutionalizing the one-party rule modeled on Japan's Liberal Democratic Party will go down the drain in the face of people's resistance. If such a course of events leads Kim Yong-sam, who has traversed a single-track opposition path, to his political demise, it will be truly painful.

The great conservative alliance will undoubtedly breed a storm in the political camps operating within the framework of the system. Unquestionably, the NDRP members will line up behind the new party, but many RDP members will offer resistance to the "political coup d'etat" carried out without a bayonet. Conceivably, some members of the Party for Peace and Democracy will join the new party. However, the forces that are convinced that the illicit union of the three parties is exactly the opposite of democratization and national reunification should redefine the line between democracy and antidemocracy, between national and antinational, and between the masses and antimasses, and rally themselves under the banner of a great democratic alliance in great unity. The banner would have to withstand severe wind and rain, but conscientious politicians and dissident activists armed with firm fighting spirit would surely overcome the ordeals together.

New Party's Power Move Assailed

SK2701005790 Seoul HANGYORE SINMUN in Korean 26 Jan 90 p 6

[Editorial: "The Division of Spoils by the Great Conservative Alliance—The Dual Executive System and Bicameral Parliament System Are Both Partisan Ideas"]

[Text] The new party to be formed by the three parties, namely the Democratic Justice Party [DJP], the Reunification Democracy Party [RDP], and the New Democratic Republican Party [NDRP], under the name of "a great conservative alliance," which is tenatively dubbed the Democratic Liberal Party [DLP], has begun spawning plans for realignment of political structure, while giving rise to noisy arguments, even before it is formally registered as a party. After discussing the ideas of a unilateral leadership and collective leadership, and the idea of revising the Constitution to introduce a parliamentary cabinet system and a dual executive system, some lawmakers even floated the idea of introducing "a bicameral parliament system." As a result, the people are confused.

Although those who support the new party describe themselves as being involved in creating "grand politics in a great era," an ear-pleasing slogan, people know what the three parties seek to achieve behind the merger of their parties, which is being dubbed "a coup d'etat without gunfire." The RDP and NDRP seem to have realized that under the current political system run by four parties they are clearly destined to swallow in the elections of local autonomous governments the same bitter defeat they suffered in the by-election in the No. 2 Yongdungpo electoral district last year. Thus, they may have thought that they had no choice but to join hands with the dictatorial regime in order to survive and, going one step farther, come into power even at the cost of "a surrender." Given the fact that it has no appealing candidate for a successor to the next regime, the DJP, too, may have keenly felt it necessary to keep their current dividends through the great conservative alliance rather than to risk losing power. Thus, the "great conservative alliance" is the product of crisis-awareness and ambitions for power on the part of the RDP and NDRP, coupled with the DJP's attempt to permanently stay in office. In addition, there is no question that the three parties have found it in their interest to isolate the Party for Peace and Democracy by branding it as being radical, and to build a conservative-radical political structure.

As the new party is considered to be a collusion, people do not pay much attention to the controversy over what kind of leadership it will adopt. However, such things as a parliamentary cabinet system, a dual executive system, or a bicameral parliament system, all of which are preconditioned on a revision of the Constitution, are far from the controversy over the new party's leadership issue. These issues directly affect the people's lives and rights. Under the dual executive system, the president is to exercise substantial power in defense and diplomatic affairs, while the prime minister is in charge of administering domestic affairs. However, in an emergency the president can hold real power over administrative affairs in his hands. This may be the reason why the incumbent president and Messrs Kim Yong-sam and Kim Chong-pil have given thought to the dual executive system as a way of solving the distribution of power in the new party.

Those in the great conservative alliance assert that the bicameral parliament system, a system practiced in countries that have instituted a parliamentary cabinet system, is wide open to talented people. This assertion, however, is nothing but an expression of their partisan strategy. In order to accommodate over 220 lawmakers from the three parties, who have seats in the current National Assembly, chairmen of local chapters, and a bunch of the sunflower-like politicos who no doubt will swarm the "great conservative alliance" as candidates, the new party has no choice but to increase the number of seats in the next National Assembly; hence, the idea of instituting a bicameral parliament system. The new party's call for introducing medium-sized electoral districts for the next general elections clearly discloses what ambitions the new party seeks to achieve. By arranging for 2 to 5 five lawmakers to be elected in one electoral district, the new party seeks to have the PPD reduced to a minority regional party, because ruling party candidates will also be elected in the Honam regions [North and South Cholla Provinces], the PPD's strongholds, along with the PPD candidates, and all of the ruling party candidates will be elected in regions where the PPD enjoys less support.

Of course, the new party has no chance of fulfilling all such plans as it intends, but people will become indignant upon seeing the new giant ruling party, formed not through elections, but through a conspiracy, dividing power of the regime through the spoils system. The regime is not spoils, but something sacred entrusted to it by the people.

Approach to North Viewed

SK2901013490 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 29 Jan 90 p 4

[Editorial: "Approach to Pyongyang"]

[Text] Undeniably, the earthshaking collapse of the East bloc is a testimony to the fallacy of communism. It is also evidence of the superiority of liberal democracy and a free market economy over communism. An acute comparison can be made on the divided Korean Peninsula where the liberal and capitalistic south has become affluent to the extent of becoming no match for the Communist north in a matter of only three decades or so. As to the level of liberty granted to its people, no comparison can be drawn as long as the north remains the most regimented and secluded society in the world.

The other day, a curious foreigner from the East wondered how one in the south could praise the northern society. He was referring to radical activists who are sympathetic with, and even echo, the rhetoric of the north. In fact, the unsolicited and perverted side effects of capitalistic pursuits, coupled with the repressive rules of past regimes, were largely to blame for causing such sympathies. The Communist Pyongyang regime has geared its propaganda and other apparatus toward agitating, and exploiting, such sentiments in its quest—and no true signs have yet been shown by the north of relinquishing it—of communizing the whole peninsula. In hindsight, Pyongyang's policy toward Seoul has been oriented toward such subversion.

The past two years, notably since the June 29, 1987 reform declaration, have seen pent-up grievances erupt in demands for deregulating the entire social spectrum. Radical approaches, most in response to the burgeoning nationalistic trend, have surfaced and increased demands for drastic changes in our stance toward the north. And the government, too, has taken an unprecedentedly elastic posture toward the north in the name of positive policy commensurate with the changing environment surrounding the peninsula.

All this has provided rather formidable challenges in actually dealing with Pyongyang because of heightened expectations which, quite understandably, have led to a delusive euphoria. Adding to all that have been the accelerating changes in the East. It has led one to believe that the Cold War era is really over, forcing a change in our long-held awareness.

Nevertheless, what must be remembered at this juncture is that North Korea has yet to follow in the footsteps of any of its European allies. The reality, instead, even indicates the possibility that it may become ever more recalcitrant, in the short run, to safeguard itself against the menacing waves of the outside world. It has been against such a backdrop that Pyongyang has remained persistent in its call for inter-Korea talks to be attended by political and social representatives from both sides in a bid to elude Seoul's overture to hold an exclusive summit. This, no doubt, is a gambit to disconcert the southern side, thus enabling Pyongyang to enjoy leverage in the talks and exercise influence over the south.

Last week, the leaders of the Democratic Justice Party, the Reunification Democratic Party and the New Democratic Republican Party, in proclaiming their parties' dramatic merger to form "the Democratic Liberal Party," said that it is also aimed at initiating efforts to bring about a peaceful unification of the divided peninsula. When integrated, the three parties—one ruling and two opposition—would be able to enjoy more than a two-thirds majority in the National Assembly. This marks a sharp contrast to the old format under which four parties were interlocked while none enjoyed a majority.

The diversity stemming from such plurality, it was quite possible, tempted one to believe that it could be better able to maneuver than the south in inter-Korean negotiations. They have certainly applied this belief in agitating dissenters in the south bent on seeing the north from a blindly biased point of view.

All this behooves our newly aligned politicians to help redress those negatives. Skeptics should be shown a correct picture of the reality—a reality the anachronistically dogmatic Communist leadership in the north has brought about. Our liberalism, as amply proven at this moment, is a far cry from communism, even if it still needs much improvement. For this purpose, we should rectify what we find to be wrong through an enduring reform effort. the immorality that is often associated with politics must be headed off. This is the best way to put our truly democratic power behind our approach to north Korea so that Pyongyang cannot afford to have second thoughts. Such an approach will induce it to earnestly come to the table of inter-Korean reconciliation. Surely, we have much with which to head in that direction. Creative, not hackneyed, politics is thus the guiding light in our search for all that.

PPD To Adopt Collective Leadership System

SK2901034490 Seoul YONHAP in English 0301 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 29 (YONHAP)—Kim Tae-chung, alone in the opposition camp since the two other opposition leaders defected to the ruling camp, said Monday his regionally based party may adopt a collective leadership system in an effort to spread its reach across the nation.

"We will invite all centrist and democratic forces to our camp to cultivate the Party for Peace and Democracy (PPD) into a real national party, filling all regionalistic and class gaps," Kim told a news conference.

"If necessary for that purpose, we will revise our party charter and reshape the current single leadership system of the party into a collective one," said Kim, who has been accused by critics of being "too charismatic."

He said the PPD, composed almost entirely of people from Kim's home province in the southwestern part of the country, will open its membership to people of all regions and renovate its management system with a view to refreshing its image.

There is mounting pressure both inside and outside the PPD for reforms to dilute the party's strong regionalistic character and renovate its leadership system. The PPD controls the cholla provinces but suffered devastating defeats in all other regions except some constituencies in Seoul in the 1988 general elections due largely to regional antagonism.

The PPD leader dubbed the planned merger of the two other opposition parties and the ruling Democratic Justice Party (DJP) "a disguised coup attempted in the name of a three-way merger" and demanded it be scrapped immediately.

"If they want to push ahead with the merger to the last moment and revise the ruling system into a parliamentary cabinet system, they must dissolve the national assembly and ask the opinion of the public through general elections," said the life-long opposition leader.

Asked whether he was ready to accept an offer from President No Tae-u for a one-on-one meeting, Kim said, "I've not yet received such a proposal and I find no reason to meet him even if he does offer it."

The PPD leader said his party will stake its political fate on a campaign to resist the three-way merger but added, "we will wage a peaceful struggle which will be based on public opinion."

Meanwhile, informed sources said Monday the PPD will launch a petition campaign to collect signatures of at least 10 million people opposed to the alliance from early next month and will organize a series of 50 public rallies for a similar purpose.

Kim Tae-chung Introduces New PPD Officers

SK2901062490 Seoul YONHAP in English 0444 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 29 (YONHAP)—Kim Tae-chung introduced new faces at the top of his Party for Peace and Democracy (PPD) on Monday, naming Sin Sun-pom to replace Yi Chae-kun as PPD secretary-general, Kim Yong-pae to succeed Kim Won-ki as floor leader and Cho Se-hyong to follow Kim Pong-ho as chairman of the Policy Deliberation Committee.

The outgoing officeholders tendered their resignations on Jan. 25 to inject fresh air into the party after the ruling Democratic Justice Party and two opposition parties announced they had decided to merge into a new ruling party.

New Secretary-General Sin, 57, is a three-term lawmaker from Yochon, South Cholla Province. New Floor Leader Kim, 58, is also a three-term lawmaker and a former PPD secretary-general while Cho Se-hyong, 59, a two-term legislator, is a journalist-turned politician.

Kim Tae-chung said the reshuffle was made in accordance with the hopes of the outgoing officeholders and the opinions of party lawmakers to cope with the "giant ruling party."

The appointment of Kim Yong-pae and Cho, who are from Seoul, to the two key posts is part of an effort to remove the PPD's stigma as a regional party, political observers say.

The PPD has been described by some critics as the party of the Cholla Provinces, the home of Kim Tae-chung and most PPD lawmakers.

The reshuffle was also designed to prevent some PPD lawmakers, including Vice President Cho Yun-hyong and Rep. Chong Tae-chol, from deserting to found a new opposition party, they say.

Company Announces Joint Venture in Italy

SK2401043690 Seoul YONHAP in English 0244 GMT 24 Jan 90

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 24 (YONHAP)—Goldstar Co. of South Korea, in preparation for an economic integration of the European Community in 1992, has agreed to set up a joint-venture refrigerator plant with Iberna Co. of Italy and the state-run Italian firm Gepi Co. in Milan, Italy, the company announced Wednesday.

Gold star signed a contract with Iberna on Tuesday to create Goldstar-Iberna, Goldstar spokesman Yi Chai-kun said. Gepi has a 40 percent share and Gold Star and Iberna have 30 percent each, Yi said.

It will cost about 22 million U.S. dollars to get the venture up and running, and it should produce 200,000 refrigerators a year from early 1991.

Goldstar expects to reduce transportation costs and easily overcome such difficulties as complicated procedures for exporting to Europe with the Milan factory, Yi said.

KAL Plans Flights to Rome, Sydney in 1990

SK2601023090 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 26 Jan 90 p 3

[Text] Korean Air will open Seoul-Rome and Seoul-Sydney flight services within the year, KAL president Cho Chung-kun said yesterday.

For the Seoul-Rome service, KAL is now holding negotiations with Alitalia Airlines, Cho said, adding that the two airlines will conclude an accord in march. The service will start as soon as Korean and Italian governments sign an aviation agreement to that effect.

If things go well, KAL will open a once-a-week service to Rome before its winter flight schedule begins in November. The Rome flight will be ramified from one of KAL's current North European services, possibly the Seoul-Amsterdam route, Cho said.

In return for the KAL service, Alitalia plans to launch its Seoul service in 1992. Until then, KAL will allocate 50 seats per flight for Alitalia passengers as general sales agent of the Italian airline.

Cho also said his airline will open a Seoul-Sydney service within this year. KAL and Qantas Airways, Australian flag carrier, agreed to exchange flights last October.

KAL will also actively seek the opening of a Seoul-Madrid service before the 1992 Barcelona Summer Olympic Games, Cho said.

To provide the pilot manpower needed for the new route openings and to ease the current pilot shortage, the flag carrier will recruit 50 foreign cockpit crew shortly, Cho revealed.

Cho said that 20 of them will be from Turkey and the remaining 30 will be recruited from U.S. and Indonesian airlines.

Article Analyzes Student Struggle in 1990

SK2701092390 Seoul KYONGHYANG SINMUN in Korean 12 Jan 90 p 3

[Article by reporter Yi Pyong-kwang]

[Text] The student activists, who have entered a "period of hibernation" in the wake of their winter vacation, have begun to realign their organizations with new faces to prepare for their struggle in the nineties. On 10 and 11 January, the 3d-Year Seoul District Federation of General Student Councils [Sochongnyon] held a meeting to launch its Preparatory Committee on the campus of Chungang University, and made a decision on the direction of their struggle in 1990.

At the meeting, Yun Chin-ho, a junior student at Korea University who is chairman of the general students association there, was recommended as chairman of the Preparatory Committee, while Kim Chae-ung, a junior student at Hanyang University who is chairman of the general students association there, was recommended as vice chairman of the Preparatory Committee.

With the recommendation of the two students as chairman and vice chairman of the committee, it is clear that the posts of chairman and vice chairman of Sochongnyon, which have aroused particular interest among the people, will be filled by students from Korea University and Hanyang University.

As Yun Chin-ho was unanimously recommended at the meeting, which chairmen of general students associations from 25 universities in Seoul attended, it is clear that he will be elected as chairman of the Preparatory Committee in the upcoming elections slated for February.

The student activists' hurried establishment of the Preparatory Committee and the realignment of their organizations during the winter vacation season, which is "a rest period for students' activities," suggests that they are attempting to reorganize their ranks to further strengthen worker-student ties on the eve of the inaugural rally of the National Consultative Council of Trade Unions [Chonnohyop] slated for 22 January.

In the meeting held on 10 and 11 January, Sochongnyon also assessed the outcome of its struggle in 1989 and decided the direction of its struggle in 1990: the anti-U.S. movement for reunification, as usual.

At the meeting, Sochongnyon did not decide on the details of its movement for reunification this year. However, it is clear that Sochongnyon will continue the tasks related to the movement for exchange between university students of the North and the South that it waged in 1988, as well as the movement for participation in the Pyongyang festival that it waged in 1989.

In addition to the movement for reunification, Sochongnyon also decided, as one of its major task, to wage a united joint struggle with workers this year. For this struggle, Sochongnyon decided not only to wage active propaganda activities among people for the formation of Chonnohyop, but to participate in its inaugural rally slated for 22 January as well.

As Sochongnyon decided to continue such an acute political struggle this year, it is clear that clashes between the student activists and the government authorities will be inevitable this year as well.

The background lurking behind the reason why Sochongnyon has designated the anti-U.S. struggle for reunification and the united struggle between workers and students as the two major goals in its struggle this year is that it has prudently taken into consideration the existence of the two main forces in the student activities: the national liberation faction [NL faction] and the people's democracy faction [PD faction]. This is not only because the elections of chairmen of general students associations in universities conducted last December revealed that the PD forces were stronger than was previously thought and, accordingly, the NL faction—which led the students' movement in 1989—will have to take into consideration the existence of the PD faction in the future, but also because Sochongnyon has come to believe that the inauguration of Chonnohyop will result in further intensifying the workers' struggle this year.

In addition to these struggles, Sochongnyon has made it clear that it will continue the struggle to liquidate legacies of the Fifth Republic and to save student Yim Su-kyong.

Saying that "under the instigation of the U.S. imperialists and through a vicious collusion with the conservative opposition parties, the No Tae-u fascist regime, which has been hellbent on prolonging political power, has committed the atrocity of preposterously declaring the conclusion of the liquidation of the Fifth Republic under the pretext of Chon Tu-hwan's false testimony at the National Assembly and the resignation of Chong Ho-yong from his official posts," the student activists have declared their will to continue the struggle for the liquidation of the legacies of the Fifth Republic and for the punishment of those figures involved in the republic. The figures who, Sochongnyon claims, should be punished include Chon Tu-hwan, No Tae-u, Chong Ho-yong, Pak Chun-pyong, Chang Se-tong, An Hyon-tae, Yi Won-cho, and Yi Hui-song. Accordingly, it is anticipated that the issue of liquidating the legacies of the Fifth Republic will remain the main target of the student activists' struggle in 1990.

It has been learned that the participants at the Sochongnyon meeting on 10 and 11 January extensively discussed ways to strengthen the organizations of the general students associations of all universities, including the organizations of the National Council of University Student Representatives [Chondaehyop] and Sochongnyon.

In the course of the student movement last year, many students voiced the criticism that it is important to strengthen the voting rights of various students' representative organizations under the general students associations and, thus, to achieve democratization within these organizations. Therefore, the participants at the Sochongnyon meeting discussed ways to achieve a broad scale of participation by the masses of the students in the student movement, while admitting that the student movement has failed to receive support from all students. This can be regarded as Sochongnyon's efforts to extricate itself from the criticism that there is a limit in the student movement and that the student movement has been clinging only to the political struggle. Chongnyon decided to reflect and accommodate students' demands in parallel with its political struggle.

According to the above decision, Sochongnyon has decided to actively encourage the masses of students to take part in its struggle for campus independence, as well as to wage a struggle against an increase of tuition on the threshold of the start of the new school semester in February.

The goal of the student movement in 1990 is generally the same as that of the student movement in recent years. However, what draws our attention is that the student activists seem to be attemptimg to develop their movement into a new stage by thoroughly reviewing the good points and weak points of their struggle, which have been revealed in the course of their movement, and by accommodating the criticism on the student movement. It seems that the ideological debates among the student activists last year, which gave a great shock to our citizens, have been completely resolved through heated discussions among themselves.

The fact that at the Sochongnyon meeting on 10 and 11 January, which both the NL PD factions attended, there was no "discord" in the discussions on the direction of its struggle in 1990 and in electing its chairman and vice chairman suggests that the two factions have no big differences in their goals, in which they seek "independence, democracy, and reunification." This also means that the two factions have shared the opinion that the student movement in 1990, the first year of the nineties, is particularly important and that it will face a more difficult situation this year than ever before.

How will the student movement, which played a leading role in the struggle for social reforms in the eighties, the era of upheaval, be led in the nineties? What assessment will the movement receive from the people in the nineties? These issues will be decided by the direction and goal of its struggle this year.

Burma

News Conference on Military Attack, Elections

BK2601145590 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese 1330 GMT 26 Jan 90

[Excerpts] The Information Committee of the State Law and Order Restoration Council held its 75th news conference with local and foreign journalists at 1300 today in the reception hall of the Ministry of Defense. [passage omitted]

At the news conference the Information Committee explained the attack and capture of the Thay Baw Bo region and camp and the related situation. Forces from the 332d Tactical Unit and the 13th Frontline Light Infantry Regiment and the 4th Frontline Infantry Regiment under the command of the frontline 44th Light Infantry Division participated in the operation. The operation started on 20 January against the Thay Baw Bo area where the 16th and 17th Regiments under the command of the Karen National Union [KNU] 6th Brigade and the 204th, 205th, and 206th Regiments of the All Burma Students Democratic Front are based. [passage omitted]

At 0900 on 25 January our Defense Services captured the entire Thay Baw Bo region. [passage omitted]

During the Thay Baw Bo operations one of our soldiers was killed and 18, including an officer, were wounded. From the enemy side, 8 bodies were recovered, and 1 HK-33, 1 M-16, 1 AK-47, and 18 RPG projectiles were captured. [passage omitted]

Next, the Information Committee replied to questions from journalists. [passage omitted]

In a response to a question from a Tokyo Broadcasting Service [TBS] correspondent, the Information Committee said that the Elections Commission has declared that under the Elections Law, candidates can withdraw their candidacy by 22 January at the latest. As of today, not a single person has withdrawn his name from the candidacy list. The candidacy list remains as submitted with a total of 2,392 candidates—2,310 from 100 political parties and 82 independent candidates. There have been no changes.

At 0630 on 25 January the Burmese service of the VOA reported U.S. Senator Patrick Moynihan as saying he would propose to President Bush to send an observer team composed of members of the U.S. Congress to observe the elections to be held in Myanma [Burma]. At the same time, Senator Patrick Moynihan said the elections to be held in Myanma would not be fair and free. The Information Committee said that there is no need for the observer team to come and observe and that it is not likely to be accepted, as Senator Moynihan himself had already prejudged the elections and concluded that they would not be free and fair based on a person's right to participation under the Elections Law.

In response to a question from the REUTER correspondent, the Information Committee explained that the fact that not a single candidate has withdrawn his name from the candidacy list clearly shows that they deem the elections to be free and fair. The Elections Law was drafted after it was presented to the political parties and was promulgated based on their suggestions. This is the reason that a majority of the parties submitted their lists of candidates to run in the elections.

There will likely be an average of five candidates contesting in each constituency, as a total of 2,392 candidates will be contesting in 492 constituencies. [passage omitted]

In response to a question from the TASS correspondent, the Information Committee explained that questions related to elections can be addressed directly to the Elections Commission, that the Defense Services have captured seven major and small camps of the KNU since October 1988, and that only the three major camps of Manerplaw, New Wangkha, and Mawhay remain in the hands of the KNU insurgents. [passage omitted]

The news conference ended at 1350.

Police, Army Drug Seizures in 1989 Reported

BK2801150290 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese 1330 GMT 28 Jan 90

[Text] The Defense Forces and the People's Police Force have jointly been conducting activities to keep the threat of narcotic drugs under control. As a result, between 1 January and 31 December 1989, the Defense Forces seized 467.12 kg of raw opium worth 6,181,320 kyat—the equivalent of Hong Kong $7,305,136 or about U.S. $936,564.

Similarly in the same period, the People's Police Force conducted operations "Ye Min Aung Phase 1" and "Ye Min Aung Phase 2;" seized 622.2 kg of raw opium, 0.05 kg of heroin, 187.57 kg of brown opium, 20,672.3 kg of marijuana, 3,964.95 liters of (phensidyl) mixture, 132 gallons of acetic anhydride, and 4,504 methaqualone tablets; and took action in 416 drug-related cases and 1,938 cases against people failing to register following drug addiction.

Under project "Mya Sein" to destroy marijuana plantations, 286,430 marijuana plants—81.85 tons—were destroyed in Bago Division and 29,941 marijuana plants—5.7 tons—were razed in Shan State.

Thus, the total value of drugs seized and destroyed by the People' Police Force is 86,501,800 kyat—the equivalent of HK $102,229,097 or about U.S. $23,106,332.

Hence, the total value of drugs seized and destroyed by the Defense Forces and the People's Police Force is 92,683,120 kyat—the equivalent of HK $109,534,589 [figure as heard] or U.S.$24,042,896.

Cambodia

Reportage on 18th National Assembly Session

Chea Sim Opens Session 26 Jan

BK2701104990 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1300 GMT 26 Jan 90

[Speech by Chea Sim, chairman of the National Assembly, at the 26 January opening of the 18th National Assembly session—recorded]

[Text] On behalf of the presidium and the entire National Assembly, I would like to extend our best regards and most sincere, beloved, and respectful greetings to our Armed Forces and people throughout the country who, at the end of 1989, have struggled valiantly, smashed the military adventures of the enemies, and won brilliant victories, thus shamefully frustrating the enemies' dirty scheme to vigorously and broadly expand the civil war throughout the country.

Throughout 1989, our society has passed through various important stages [words indistinct]. It is true that our struggle with the enemies has become more complicated, arduous, and resolute in all aspects due to the enemies' unchanging and obstinate strategies to topple and occupy the State of Cambodia and to enable them to prolong the misery of our Cambodian people in the years to come.

Through the war which has shed the blood of our Cambodian people, the genocidal Pol Pot clique and its colleagues have used their perfidious political tricks to destroy the Paris International Conference and all the efforts to seek a solution to the Cambodian problem through peaceful means within a regional and international framework.

As the representative of the Cambodian people throughout the country, we would like to stress that as long as the ringleaders of the genocidal clique are not condemned by the international tribunal, and the political and military organizational systems of the genocidal regime still exist, the Cambodian people [words indistinct] according to their sacred desire with genuine peace and security. Under whichever form, the genocidal Pol Pot clique still threatens peace in Cambodia's society and continues to be a force permanently opposed to the interests of peace, stability, and cooperation in Southeast Asia.

Latest developments clearly show that the groups of Sihanouk and Son Sann have become an out-and-out tool of the genocidal Pol Pot clique for opposing the Cambodian people.

Therefore, [words indistinct] the general elections and the dissolution of the Government of the State of Cambodia are just a scheme to enable the genocidal clique to gain power in Cambodia.

Although the enemies have distorted the facts about the situation along the border, the political, economic, cultural, and social life within our national society has advanced constantly. In the political field, the change from two simultaneous forces to Cambodia's own force, which has independently taken responsibility for the defense of the Cambodian motherland, has enhanced the national pride of all Cambodian people who, from now on, have pledged to hold aloft the banner of national unity and unanimity around the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Party in order to defend national independence, [words indistinct], and territorial integrity of the motherland. At the same time, [words indistinct] for building a Cambodia which is independent, peaceful, democratic, and nonaligned; a Cambodia with its own territorial integrity.

World public opinion which cherishes peace and justice has seen even more clearly that the government of the State of Cambodia is the sole force which can prevent the return of the genocidal regime and the only force which genuinely represents the vital interests of the Cambodian people. As the real representative of the Cambodian people throughout the country, we would like to once again express our regret over the fact that the United Nations has continued to preserve Cambodia's UN seat for the genocidal Pol Pot-Ieng Sary clique without heeding [words indistinct] and efforts to seek a solution within the framework of the regional condition and the Paris International Conference. Such an attitude by the United Nations runs totally counter to the principles of impartiality.

Prompted by a sense of responsibility for the fate of the motherland and the Cambodian people, the National Assembly of the State of Cambodia holds that the new changes and developments in the stance of the Government of the State of Cambodia regarding the search for a solution to the Cambodian problem as proposed by Comrade Chairman of the Council of Ministers Hun Sen on 9 December 1989 constituted a courageous step. This new stance has brought about a broad and concrete prospect for the other Cambodian factions and for the countries concerned, including the United Nations, to mobilize their common efforts to quickly put an end to the misery of the Cambodian people which has dragged on for more than a decade.

[Words indistinct] courageous stance of our State of Cambodia, the five standing members of the UN Security Council held a meeting in Paris on 15 and 16 January in order to seek a solution to the Cambodian problem, and achieved some encouraging success. However, the issue to be discussed further is what the 16-point statement of this meeting did not mention, that is the prevention of the return of the genocidal regime, an important key to the settlement of the conflict in Cambodia. The National Assembly of the State of Cambodia holds that the elimination of the possibilities for a recurrence of the genocidal regime in Cambodia is an indispensable factor in seeking a comprehensive political solution to the Cambodian problem and a necessary factor for bringing long-lasting peace to the Cambodian people in the future.

The National Assembly of the State of Cambodia would like to thank friendly countries near and far and all the peoples who cherish peace and justice across the world and who have actively given sympathy and support to the cause of the Cambodian people's just struggle. Although the search for peace continues to face many difficulties and obstacles, our people are looking toward to the future with optimism. We note with satisfaction that the current era has changed rapidly from military confrontation to international detente. This is a major factor for ensuring peace, stability, cooperation, and long-lasting peace in the world.

With genuine optimism, I would like to declare the opening of the National Assembly's 18th session, first legislature. [applause]

27 Jan Session Reported

BK2801052490 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 0430 GMT 28 Jan 90

[Text] At 0720 on 27 January, the 18th session of the State of Cambodia's National Assembly, 1st legislature, continued its work as scheduled. The National Assembly members listened to the discussion on the Council of Ministers' report on the 1989 socioeconomic situation and targets of the 1990 state plans. Also, members from Kampot, Battambang, Kompong Cham, Prey Veng, Kandal, Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey, Phnom Penh, and Svay Rieng constituencies successively commented on this report in a frank and in-depth manner.

The National Assembly adjourned at 1040, to resume its work on the afternoon of 27 January.

28 Jan Session Reported

BK2801115490 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1100 GMT 28 Jan 90

[Text] At 1400 on the afternoon of 28 January, the 18th session of the State of Cambodia's National Assembly, first legislature, continued its work as scheduled. The National Assembly members listened to the straightforward and thoughtful views expressed by members from Kompong Chhnang, Kandal, and Kompong Cham constituencies and the reports on the National Assembly's draft resolutions on socioeconomic targets of the 1990 state plan, the balance of the 1988 state budget, and the assembly's draft resolutions on the targets of the 1990 state budget presented by Comrade Men Chhan, chairman of the House Financial and Budget Committee.

The National Assembly adjourned at 1630 and will resume its work on 29 January.

Rubber Plantation Law Debated

BK2901052690 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 0430 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Text] On the morning of 29 January, from 0730, the 18th session of the State of Cambodia's first National Assembly continued its work as planned.

Members of the National Assembly debated and exchanged views on the draft law modifying the nomination and defining tasks of the Rubber Plantation Directorate and listened to comments by relevant units in reply to a number of questions and requests from various constituencies.

The Assembly adjourned at 1100 and will continue its work at 1400 this afternoon.

29 Jan Session Reported

BK2901114190 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1100 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Text] At 1400 on the afternoon of 29 January, the 18th session of the State of Cambodia's National Assembly, first legislature, continued its work as scheduled.

The National Assembly members attentively listened to the explanations given by the Ministries of Interior, National Defense, State Affairs Inspectorate, and Justice to relevant questions raised by members from various constituencies.

The National Assembly adjourned at 1700 and will continue its work tomorrow.

SPK Reports Humanitarian Aid in 1989

BK2601061590 Phnom Penh SPK in French 1106 GMT 25 Jan 90

[Text] Phnom Penh, 25 Jan (SPK)—In 1989 international organizations such as WFP—World Food Program; CIDSE—International Committee for Socioeconomic Development; HCR—[United Nations] High Commissioner for Refugees; ICRC—International Committee of the Red Cross; and the Red Cross of the USSR, France, the GDR, the FRG, Sweden, and Switzerland handed over to the Red Cross of Cambodia 11,600 metric tons of rice, 9 metric tons of clothes, more than 15 metric tons of medicines and medical equipment, 25 metric tons of other equipment, and 7 vehicles—5 trucks and 2 ambulances.

Moreover, the Red Cross of France, the GDR, Switzerland, Australia, Sweden, and Poland sent doctors to various hospitals in Cambodia.

For its part, the HCR gave 270 war invalids mechanical, electrical, and workshop training. It also helped in the construction of school and health buildings, irrigation works, and workshops in Phsa Dek Commune, Ponhea Loe District, Kandal Province and in Damrei Cheung Phnum Commune, Baphnum District, Prey Veng Province.

It is to be recalled that in 1988, the Red Cross of Cambodia received a total of 18,000 metric tons of all kinds of aid from international organizations. Since liberation in 1979, 24 international and humanitarian organizations have established close links with the Cambodian Red Cross.

Defense Ministry Official on Military Activities

BK2901042590 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 2300 GMT 28 Jan 90

["Communique of Defense Ministry's Deputy Spokesman"; date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] Every day, the three reactionary enemy groups exaggerated in their propaganda to dupe national and international opinions into believing that they have seized this area or that area. In addition, they have shamelessly boasted that they are nationalists. In fact, the three reactionary groups cause destruction wherever they go; they burn houses and loot and plunder the local people. For their savage and brutal acts, our people further detest and harbor hatred against them. That is why wherever they go, the groups' movements have been reported by our people to our local state authorities and Armed Forces. Consequently, we have successively killed, wounded, or captured many enemy soldiers. A number of them, who are weak and no longer have confidence in the deceitful propaganda of their ringleaders—traitors to the nation and people—have awakened and daily returned to society and the nation. Furthermore, clearly understanding the slogan of our Cambodian party and state according to which everything is for the cause of defending the motherland and everything for the frontline battlefield, our people and compatriots in provinces and cities have contributed to building the Armed Forces in every aspect, such as sending sons, brothers, and husbands to serve in the army, sending forces to build army camps, and dispatching supplies from the rear battlefield to the frontline when our Armed Forces are busy fighting the three groups of enemy. Apart from this, cadres and personnel in various ministries and services and students have sent greeting messages to our heroic people's army.

In fact, from 14 to 16 January, 257 workers from Svay Rieng Province assisted the army in building camps for troops in the 5th Military Region. People in Battambang provincial town from Svay Pao Muoy, Svay Pao Bei, and Chamka Samraong communes, and from Ekapheap commune also sent thousands of packets of rice to our heroic combatants in the 4th Division and 95th Brigade.

Over the past few days, our heroic Armed Forces have scored successive victories. On January 14, the 4th Division dispatched forces to carry out mopping-up operations and clear 156 enemy mines, including 3 large mines; we also destroyed another 5 of these large mines. After the enemy abandoned the battlefield, our comrades-in-arms gathered a B-40, 829 rounds of AK ammunition, and a lot of war materiel.

On 13 January, the 92d Brigade, in cooperation with forces from the 5th Military Region, killed 14 and wounded 27 enemy soldiers. In a 2-day period, from 12 to 14 January, 11 enemy officers and men surrendered. Recently, our forces stationed in Varin District, Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey Province, fiercely clashed with the enemy. We killed or wounded many of enemy soldiers.

Between 13 and 16 January, a period of 4 days, our Armed Forces put out of action 70 enemy soldiers, including 24 killed and 31 wounded, 4 taken prisoners, and 11 surrendered. Fourteen assorted weapons, 835 rounds of ammunition, and 3 large mines were seized; 5 large mines were destroyed and another 156 cleared; another quantity of war materiel was also seized.

Battle Activities Reported 13-22 Jan

BK2801124290 Phnom Penh SPK in English 1059 GMT 28 Jan 90

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK January 28—According to military sources, the Cambodian Armed Forces of Moung Russei District, Battambang Province (300 km northwest of Phnom Penh), on January 22 wiped out 11 enemy troops, wounded many others, and arrested 1 female spy. They also seized 10 assorted guns, 1 walkie-talkie, and a quantity of other war materiels.

On January 19, the Cambodian Armed Forces of Varin District, Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey Province (300 km northwest of Phnom Penh), wiped out 11 Pol Potists, wounded 7, and captured 3, and also seized a quantity of war means.

On January 18, the Cambodian combatants annihilated two enemy troops and wounded two others in Ek Phnum District, Battambang Province. During clashes on January 20, they also killed one enemy soldier and wounded two others at Treng.

On January 15, the Cambodian Armed Forces at Phnum Srok District, Banteay Meanchey Province (360 km northwest of Phnom Penh), wiped out five enemy troops and seized three assorted guns.

Two days later, they annihilated one more and wounded two others during an interception at northern Poi Pet.

On January 14, the Cambodian Armed Forces of Military Zone 5 deactivated 156 land mines, including 3 anti-tank mines. During a mopping-up operation, they also seized a B-40 rocket launcher and a quantity of war means.

In another mopping-up operation on January 13, the Armed Forces of the same military zone, which were composed of combatants of Battambang and Pursat, also killed 14 enemy troops and wounded 27 others in a number of minor skirmishes.

From January 13-16, Cambodian Armed Forces of Varin District, Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey Province, put out of action 70 enemy troops, including 24 killed, 31 wounded, and 4 captured, as well as 11 others who were forced to surrender. They seized 14 assorted guns.

On January 13, 11 enemy troops broke with their rank and surrendered to Cambodian army units at western Sdau and Treng (in Battambang Province), bringing along two hand grenades.

Military Actions in Siem Reap, Battambang Noted

BK2701140390 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1300 GMT 27 Jan 90

[Text] According to still incomplete reports which we have received, on the battlefield in Varin District of Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey Province, after valiantly repulsing the three Cambodian reactionary groups by routing them and forcing them to flee in disarray, our Armed Forces made a preliminary inspection of the battlefield and found 31 dead bodies of the enemies and a large quantity of war materiel.

On the battlefield in Moung Russei District of Battambang Province, the combined forces of our army, militia, and police forces ambushed the Pol Pot soldiers attempting to sabotage our people's peaceful life. As a result, we killed 11 Pol Pot soldiers, including 2 battalion commanders, wounded 15 others, captured 3, and seized 11 assorted weapons, an ICOM walkie-talkie, and a bag of TNT explosive powder.

Commentary on 'Deceitful' Sihanouk's Resignation

BK2801063390 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1300 GMT 27 Jan 90

[PRACHEACHON commentary: "Sihanouk Is Nearly at the End of His Tether"—date not given]

[Text] Recently, the Voice of the Khmer radio of the Democratic Kampuchean elements carried a report on Sihanouk announcing his resignation as head of the Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea and as chairman of the so-called Supreme Council of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea, and his decision not to attend any [words indistinct] or talks among the warring Cambodian groups.

There is noting exciting in this news. It is just another humorous comedy.

Many propaganda machines, particularly those in the Western world, commented that there is nothing new in this matter. Sihanouk has often behaved this childishly by resigning from the post of head of the evil group that owes blood debts to millions of Cambodian people. This is why the world public has called Sihanouk a tricky, cunning, deceitful, hypocritical, and peevish monarch who changes his mind as quickly as the weather in London, UK.

However, the real aim behind Sihanouk's nature cannot be concealed. Hidden behind this peevish and flighty attitude is Sihanouk's scheme to fool the world public over his attempt to shield and defend the genocidal Pol Pot regime. People still remember well that at the Paris International Conference on the Cambodian problem, Sihanouk—who keeps claiming he is a 100 percent patriot and loves the people truly—openly defended the genocidal Pol Pot clique by demanding that the others stop using the word "genocide."

In the past 11 years, through all his activities, Sihanouk has never thought about the happiness, rights, and interests of the Cambodian people who have escaped from the massacre of the genocidal Pol Pot regime and who are living peacefully under the new regime of the State of Cambodia. It is irrefutable that the ongoing civil war is causing tragedy and misery to the Cambodian people. The Government of the State of Cambodia has been making every effort—displaying its goodwill and making many concessions—and joined hands with various countries concerned in seeking ways to break through the deadlock caused by the opposing Cambodian groups in order to quickly put an end to the conflict. Has Sihanouk done anything? Is it not true that he has done nothing good, but rather joined hands with the Pol Pot criminals in seeking all perfidious maneuvers to expand the civil war and enable the genocidal Pol Pot clique to return to power in Cambodia?

This Sihanouk resignation is not incidental. It is known to all that in the past 3 months, following the total withdrawal of Vietnamese Army volunteers and while Cambodia's own forces have been ensuring and maintaining their superiority on the battlefield, there have been many active and more fruitful diplomatic activities by countries concerned with Cambodian problem. Many countries have supported the goodwill and concessions made by the State of Cambodia and accepted that the State of Cambodia is the sole force that can prevent the genocidal Pol Pot regime from returning to power in Cambodia. At the same time, the trend to reject the role of the Pol Pot clique in the solution to the Cambodian problem has become even more apparent. Personages of many countries have rejected this role. This is proved particularly by the statement issued by the European Economic Community in Brussels on 18 January, which clearly stressed that the role of the Khmer Rouge is the major obstacle in the negotiations concerning the allocation of power among the Cambodian opposition groups.

It is also known to all that many more countries have supported the appeal by the State of Cambodia calling for another meeting to be held as soon as possible in order to continue discussions on the Cambodian problem.

This is why in his resignation announcement Sihanouk said he maintained his position as president of Democratic Kampuchea, dreaming that by retaining this position he will be able to gain an advantage and defend the genocidal Pol Pot clique in all circumstances.

The Cambodian people throughout the country—young and old alike—are well aware of Sihanouk's real face, and we hold that whoever stands on the side of Pol Pot is tantamount to being Pol Pot himself.

Sihanouk Blames 'Depression' for Resignation

BK2701104890 Hong Kong AFP in English 1006 GMT 27 Jan 90

[Text] Beijing, Jan 27 (AFP)—Prince Norodom Sihanouk, who resigned this week as head of Cambodia's resistance coalition, Saturday blamed his retirement on a "terrible depression" caused by accusations from foreign governments and media of his "complicity" with the Khmer Rouge.

In a letter to his son Norodom Ranariddh, a copy of which was sent to AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, the exiled Cambodian leader accused his enemies in France, the United States and Australia of trying to "sink the Cambodian resistance to the advantage of the Hun Sen regime and Vietnamese colonialism." Mr. Hun sen is the leader of the Vietnamese-installed Phnom Penh government.

"I will not come out of my retirement," the prince said in his letter, written in French.

According to several diplomatic sources, the prince's resignation Wednesday—his fifth since June 1988—should not compromise negotiations recently launched over an Australian peace plan, which proposes an interim United Nations administration in Cambodia to organize free elections. Prince Sihanouk has indicated he would be a candidate in those elections.

"I am in the midst of a terrible depression which has forced me to go into political and diplomatic retirement while waiting for the return of my morale, which is at a low point due to injustices, accusations, slander, etc... heaped on me by several newspapers, politicians, etc... from France, the United States, Australia, etc..." the prince wrote to his son.

"It is important to unmask those governments which are truly responsible for the non-resolution of this tragic (Cambodian) problem and it is important that these governments no longer use me as a scapegoat for criticisms and accusations which they deserve," he added.

In another letter addressed to his son, the prince added that the attitude of Mr. Hun Sen, Vietnam, the Soviet Union and the West aids the Khmer Rouge to "retake power through force by continuing the war."

He also defended his choice of exile residences in Beijing and Pyongyang, saying: "The test of friendship is that true friends stay by you in the bad years when everyone else abandons you. My true friends number two: the People's Republic of China and the Democratic Republic of North Korea."

A spokesman for the Chinese Foreign Ministry Thursday, commenting on the prince's decision, said without elaboration: "Prince Sihanouk is an old friend of China. We have always respected his decisions."

The tripartite resistance is led militarily by the Khmer Rouge, Cambodia's former rulers responsible for the deaths of hundreds of thousands of people while they were in power in the late 1970s. Their Chinese-backed fighting force numbers around 35,000, analysts say. There are some 10,000 soldiers loyal to Prince Sihanouk and about 8,000 loyal to his former Prime Minister Son Sann.

Son Sann Sees Sihanouk, Returns to Bangkok

BK2701064490 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 27 Jan 90

[Text] His Excellency Son Sann, president of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front [KPNLF] and prime minister of the Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea, arrived in Bangkok yesterday from China after holding talks on the Cambodian problem with Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk in Beijing.

Ieng Muli, secretary general of the KPNLF, said that in the long discussion on Cambodian issues in Beijing, Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk and His Excellency Son Sann agreed on many points in connection with a peace settlement of the Cambodian problem, but did not elaborate those points. Voice of the Khmer plans to interview His Excellency Son Sann early next week.

His Excellency Son Sann will leave Bangkok on Tuesday, 30 January, for South Korea, where he will attend the second summit meeting on world peace with other former presidents and government leaders from all over the world. While staying in Thailand, he will meet with key officials of many friendly countries to discuss the Cambodian problem.

Laos

Western Reports on Cambodia Situation Criticized

BK2701085190 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0000 GMT 27 Jan 90

[Station feature: "Distortion of Facts by Western News Sources on True Situation in Cambodia Runs Counter to World's Common Trend at Present"]

[Text] Respected listeners, after the withdrawal of Vietnamese volunteer troops from Cambodia in late September last year, the Cambodian reactionaries have mapped out a plot and have made preparations to retake control. To support this goal, Western news sources have coordinated the carrying out of propaganda distorting the facts on the situation in Cambodia. They have repeatedly carried news reports claiming that the Cambodian reactionaries have captured a certain town, province, or route. By carrying such news reports, they are trying to gather more support from various chieftain countries which have lost confidence in the reactionaries. Recently, the French news agency AFP—one of the news sources which have supported the Khmer Rouge—carried a report saying that last Friday [19 January] some 2,000 Cambodians held a rally in Thmar Puok—a town adjacent to the Thai border which has been captured by the Cambodian resistance forces—and called on the United States to help restore the captured territory. Recently, BBC radio has also reported that Cambodian workers and refugees have enthusiastically flowed into the liberated areas in Cambodia from Thailand. Earlier, the BBC claimed that the Khmer Rouge bandits had seized Battambang Province. This news has spread throughout the world. Since then, their news reports on the capturing of an area have lessened. Occasionally, however, they have carried news reports claiming that the Khmer Rouge has captured more positions. All these reports by Western news sources are aimed at deceiving world public opinion on the situation in Cambodia.

The news reports distorting the facts in Cambodia which are repeatedly carried by Western sources have caused observant people to lose confidence in the media, because all the reports are deceitful. In their reports, these Western news sources have repeatedly claimed that the Cambodian reactionaries have captured a certain town or province. The facts are that as of now, no province has been captured or has become a base of the reactionaries. The Cambodian reactionaries have not had possession of any piece of land in the State of Cambodia, have existed only on Thai soil, and have been assisted and fostered by a group of bad elements in Thailand.

In this regard, SPK—the official news agency of the State of Cambodia—has completely denied these groundless reports carried by Western sources on the situation in Cambodia. SPK has denied as absolutely groundless a news report carried by these Western sources, based on the Khmer Rouge radio, that the Khmer Rouge forces have attacked the provincial town of Battambang, causing the town to exist in a state of emergency, and that the opposition forces have moved forward to Angkor Wat. The fact is that Battambang town and Angkor Wat are still under the control of the State of Cambodia. Such an erroneous report is aimed at serving their purpose of propaganda and distortion. With this deceitful report, the enemies have intended to isolate the State of Cambodia and lessen its prestige. At present, the Army of the State of Cambodia has taken the responsibility of guaranteeing the safety and social order in the country after the withdrawal of all Vietnamese volunteer troops from Cambodia.

One who has clearly pointed out these deceitful reports carried by Western sources is Hun Sen, chairman of the Council of Ministers and minister of foreign affairs of the State of Cambodia. A Vietnamese reporter said to Hun Sen in an interview: A few days ago, Western news sources reported that during your meeting with the Cambodian people, you admitted that heavy losses were suffered following fighting in Battambang Province and that a state of emergency was declared in the western part of Cambodia. What do you have to say about this? Hun Sen replied: This was an incorrect interpretation made by the Western mass media. What they have reported is contrary to what I said. During my visits to Prey Veng and Svay Rieng Provinces from 2 to 7 January 1990, I met with people in various places and made speeches on 11 different occasions to more than 1,000 people. During these speeches, I explained the difficulties faced by Cambodia over the past 11 years during which we experienced both peace and war. I said: The war has caused great losses in lives and property and has obstructed the building of the country. This situation is different from the 16-year period of national construction during the time of Prince Sihanouk when construction work was continually carried out under peaceful conditions and with great assistance from foreign countries.

I pointed out that the war has not yet ended and that although all of the Vietnamese volunteer troops have withdrawn from Cambodia, a political settlement of the problem has not yet been achieved. I noted: At present, it is the duty and responsibility of the entire Cambodian people to defend the country and prevent the Pol Pot clique of murderers from returning to power again. First and foremost, all the people must fulfill tasks for the nation. Youths have the duty of serving the national defense task, which is regarded as a regular task of citizens of all countries. Every country needs to have military forces even when it is at peace. Youths, therefore, must serve in military forces. The length of military service depends on the law of each country. My speech was not meant to be taken as an order or as a state of emergency declaration. It is was natural for me to stress the role of youths in my speech. My purpose is to urge the people to maintain a spirit of responsibility toward national defense work. It is regrettable that certain persons have incorrectly interpreted my remarks.

These events have further proven that Western news reports are distorting the facts on the situation in Cambodia. By carrying such groundless reports, Western news sources have been encouraging the Pol Pot clique of murderers who have used Thai territory as their sanctuary. These reports have encouraged those countries which have assisted the clique in the past and are now turning their backs on it, to again give it assistance. They have also intended to create a bargaining chip for the upcoming round of peace talks. Nevertheless, if these Western news sources continue to rely on Khmer Rouge radio to present their news reports, it is certain that those news sources will not accurately reflect the true situation in Cambodia. Moreover, their incorrect reports will serve as propaganda for the criminal Pol Pot clique, and in the end, they will certainly become unreliable sources for the people.

Committee Condemns U.S. Move in South Korea

BK2901114590 Vientiane KPL in English 0905 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Text] Vientiane, Jan 29 (KPL)—The Lao Committee for World Peace, Solidarity, and Friendship With Nations has recently issued a statement supporting an appeal launched in a letter of November 1989 [date not given] by the National Democratic Front of South Korea. The main parts of the statement are as follows:

The United States of America has recently stepped up its armed reinforcement by sending into the Korean peninsula bomber planes and fighter aircraft. The action vividly reflects the U.S. Administration's attempt to perpetuate the division of Korea and the domination of South Korea.

This also challenges a recent peace initiative of the PDRK [DPRK], which aims to ease the military confrontation in the peninsula and to create conditions favourable to the peaceful reunification of Korea, says the statement.

In face of such a situation, the Lao committee strongly condemns the warmonger policy of the U.S., urges them to end all their aggresive designs and to immediately withdraw all kinds of forces from this region, and again urges them to stop the military exercises of "team spirit" and others under different pretexts, which oppose the just desire for peace of both North and South Koreans, the statement stresses.

Conference on Organizational Work Closes

BK2801090490 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1200 GMT 27 Jan 90

[Text] A nationwide technical conference on organizational work closed with glorious success this morning after four days of work. The conference was attended by some 68 cadres from the center and various localities.

In his closing speech, Oudom Khatti-gna, alternate Political Bureau member of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee and head of the Central Organizing Committee, pointed to the situation on party building, the training of cadres, and the consolidation and perfecting of apparatuses in previous years. He said: In 1990 in particular, party work was greatly developed both in terms of quantity and quality. Throughout the country, the number of party members increased to 58,727 or 9,055 more than that in 1988. In the past year, the number of ministries and organizations was reduced from 42 to only 30; the number of departments from 402 to only 146; and the number of personnel attached to state administrative service by almost 40 percent. This is aimed at consolidating, perfecting, simplifying, and strengthening state apparatuses in accordance with the objective set forth by the party Central Committee. It is also aimed at increasing the working efficiency of the apparatuses, cutting down on unnecessary procedures, preventing duplication of roles, and reducing the number of personnel attached to state administrative service.

The conference unanimously adopted the policy of building the party and cadres for 1990, in particular in the political and ideological field. It also discussed the consolidation and building of the party in the organizational field and the promotion of the leading, model role of party members in holding party congresses and carrying out other tasks at the provincial, city, municipal, district, and grass-roots levels in preparing for the fifth nationwide congress of party representatives and aimed to successfully fulfill other important tasks for 1990.

SRV Ambassador Holds New Year Reception

BK2701065590 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0000 GMT 27 Jan 90

[Text] Yesterday evening, Nguyen Xuan, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the SRV to Laos, organized a friendship soiree at the embassy in Vientiane on the occasion of the Tet traditional Vietnamese new year festival. Attending were Phoun Sipaseut, Political Bureau member of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, and minister of foreign affairs; Sisavat Keobounphan, Political Bureau member of the party Central Committee and chairman of the Vientiane municipal administration; Sali Vongkhamsao, Political Bureau member of the party Central Committee, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, and minister of economy, planning, and finance; Saman Vi-gnaket, Political Bureau member of the party Central Committee and minister of education and sports; Maichantan Sengmani, Political Bureau member of the party Central Committee and head of the party and state Control Committee; Oudom Khatti-gna, alternate Political Bureau member and head of the Organizing Committee of the party Central Committee; Somlat Chanthamat, secretary of the party Central Committee and head of the Propaganda and Training Board of the party Central Committee; along with members and alternate members of the party Central Committee; ministers or deputy ministers; and a number of cadres from various services. Members of the foreign diplomatic corps in Laos also attended the soiree as guests of honor.

Australian Envoy Hosts National Day Banquet

BK2701062590 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0000 GMT 27 Jan 90

[Text] Yesterday evening, Philip Allan Jackson, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of Australia and Laos, and his wife organized a banquet at their residence in celebration of Australia's national day. Attending the banquet as guests of honor on this occasion were Phoun Sipaseut, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers and minister of foreign affairs; and Sisavat Keobounphan, chairman of the Vientiane municipal administration; together with many ministers or deputy ministers and a number of high-ranking cadres from various services. Foreign diplomats and representatives of various international organizations to Laos also attended the banquet by invitation.

Indian Ambassador Hosts National Day Reception

BK2901102590 Vientiane KPL in English 0900 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Text] Vientiane, Jan 29 (KPL)—The ambassador of the Republic of India to Laos, Jambolkar, on Jan 27 evening, hosted a reception at his residence to mark the 40th national day anniversary of his country. (Jan 26, 1950-1990).

Among the guests of honour attending the reception were Vice Chairman of the Council of Ministers and Minister for Foreign Affairs Phoun Sipaseut, Mayor of Vientiane Sisavat Keobounphan, and some other ministers.

The diplomatic corps and the representatives of international organizations here were also present.

Greetings of Thanks Sent to GDR Minister

BK2801050090 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0430 GMT 26 Jan 90

[Text] On 23 January, Comrade General Khamtai Siphandon, minister of national defense of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR], sent a reply message of thanks to Comrade General Hoffmann, minister of national defense of the GDR, Berlin. The message reads as follow:

Respected Comrade Minister: On behalf of the National Defense Ministry and officers and men in the entire Lao People's Army [LPA], I am pleased to convey lofty thanks to you, comrade, for the best wishes that you have conveyed to us on the occasion of the 41st anniversary of the LPA. I am convinced that the long-standing, traditional militant solidarity and cooperation between our two countries and the LPDR and GDR armies will be increasingly developed.

I wish you, Comrade Minister, good health and success in performing your noble tasks.

Leaders Receive New Libyan Ambassador

BK2901102790 Vientiane KPL in English 0909 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Text] Vientiane, Jan 29 (KPL)—Nouhak Phoumsavan, president of the People's Supreme Assembly, and Phoun Sipaseut, vice-chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, on Jan 27 granted a separate audience to Mr Salih Muhammad al-Hoshi [name as received], who was newly accredited as ambassador of the Jamahiriyah Socialist Arab Libya Repbublic to Laos.

Their discussion went on in a good and warm atmosphere.

The ambassador presented his credentials to the Lao Acting President Phoumi Vongvichit on Jan 14, 1990.

Philippines

Manglapus Urges Protest on U.S. 'Noncompliance'

HK2901121390 Quezon City Sports Radio 738 in English 1100 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Text] Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus has recommended that a protest be filed over the noncompliance of the U.S. Government regarding certain provisions of the military bases agreement. Again Erl Sapilino reports:

[Begin recording] Manglapus, who appeared today before the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, cited violations of the Manglapus-Shultz agreement, which, among others, make it mandatory for the American forces to purchase a total of $30 million worth of Philippine goods for the U.S. bases. Also, Manglapus doubted whether the U.S. Government would make good its commitment to pay $2.4 billion in base rentals to the Philippines. The foreign affairs chief also identified other issues which he said remained unattended to. Among these include veterans benefits to Filipino USAF members, aide bearers, the security action plan, housing, food aid, and the FMS [Foreign Military Sales] credit conversion. [end recording]

Aquino on Reports of DPRK Support for Rebels

HK2701085690 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 27 Jan 90

[Text] President Aquino said that the government has the ability to counter foreign support for communist rebels in the country. She made the statement in reaction to reports of North Korean assistance to local communists in exchange for information on U.S. bases in the Philippines, as revealed in documents captured from captured communist rebels.

However, even though Malacanang has asserted that there has still been no confirmation of North Korean aid to communist rebels in the country, the president said that the assistance is most likely to come in the form of cash rather than firearms.

Aquino Says People To Decide on Polls Proposal

HK2701083290 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 27 Jan 90

[Excerpts] President Corazon Aquino supports a proposal to hold presidential elections 6 months before the original schedule. [sentence as heard] She said that she will leave it up to the people to decide on the proposal. Speaking in an interview following taping of her weekly Ask the President program, Mrs Aquino said the people will decide on the proposal for an earlier presidential election.

This was the president's reaction to a suggestion by the Senate that presidential, vice presidential and congressional elections be held in November next year. In a resolution, Senator Ernesto Maceda called for convening Congress as a constituent assembly to amend the constitutional provision which stipulates that the presidential elections should be held in May 1992.

Meanwhile, Senator Jose Lina vehemently denied that the Senate resolution calling for earlier presidential elections was a response to demands by rebel soldiers for snap elections. Lina explained that the four sponsors of the resolution did not intend to call for a snap election, but wanted to avoid the simultaneous holding of local and national elections where each voter will have to write down 47 names of officials on a single ballot.

According to Lina, the resolution presented by the four senators headed by Senator Maceda was intended to check fraud as well as avoid problems that may arise if the elections were held on the same day for the voters and Commission on Elections.

As chairman of the Senate committee on constitutional amendments, Senator Lina said he remains neutral on the issue and that it will go through a process of constituent assembly and a national plebiscite. However, he expressed hope that President Aquino will keep an open mind on the issue. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, the proposal for earlier presidential polls is rejected by members of the progressive bloc in the House of Representatives. Dick Sinchongco has the report.

[Begin recording] [Sinchongco] The holding of earlier presidential polls is an admission of the government's loss of credibility and legitimacy as alleged by the political opposition. This was stressed by Sorsogon Representative Bonifacio Gillego, a member of the Lower House's progressive bloc. At the same time, he expressed opposition to a proposal for holding earlier national elections.

[Gillego in English] I think this deflects our attention and energy away from the more fundamental and immediate problems that confront us today. So, whether it be held earlier or later, this creates a dissipation of national attention and focus on the main problems.

[Sinchongco] Gillego said the proposal may be considered as an attempt to avoid priority issues that plague the country.

[Gillego in English] I think the main problems that we have to tackle are, one, the war against poverty which has already been pronounced by the president in Samar, except that some strategies used are quite deficient or defective; the foreign debt problem, the bases agreement, and the control of the military in such a way that we could prevent the possibility of another coup. When we talk about an election, the entire nation becomes agitated and all energy and concern are focused on this diversionary issue.

[Sinchongco] Gillego added that it may be regarded as an admission of defeat to the rebel soldiers who have launched six coup attempts to overthrow the government. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Opposition Calls for Snap Presidential Election

BK2801112490 Hong Kong AFP in English 1116 GMT 28 Jan 90

[Text] Manila, Jan 28 (AFP)—The party of the late deposed President Ferdinand Marcos called on President Corazon Aquino Sunday to admit that she was unable to lead the Philippines and to call for a snap presidential election.

"Only an immediate snap election would stem the steady deterioration of the already deplorable conditions of the people, most of whom have lost trust and confidence in national leadership," the right-wing New Society Movement (KBL) said in a statement.

The KBL claimed that Mrs. Aquino's "incapacity and ineptitude" made presidential balloting imperative before the poll scheduled for 1992.

Mrs. Aquino, reacting to four pro-government senators' suggestion that she call a snap election for the presidency and congress in November next year, said Saturday that it will be "up to the people" to decide whether they wanted her to call one.

She said the Constitution provides that 75 per cent of Congress will have to vote in favor of an early presidential election which would then be presented to the people in a plebiscite.

Mrs. Aquino herself rose to power following a chaotic February 7, 1986 snap presidential election. Mr. Marcos had been proclaimed winner, triggering a popular revolt that ended his 20-year rule and forced him to flee to Hawaii where he died last year.

Aquino Holds News Conference on Election Dates

HK2901144090 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog 0900 GMT 29 Jan 90

[News Conference held by President Corazon Aquino at Malacanang Palace—in English]

[Excerpts] [Aquino] I wish to state the following points regarding the proposal of Senator Maceda and three other senators to advance the national elections by 6 months through an amendment to the Constitution.

One, as I said last Saturday, insofar as this would entail an amendment to the Constitution, this would have to be addressed ultimately through our people in a plebiscite.

Two, such an undertaking, however, raises two principal considerations: First, the cost of holding a national plebiscite which was 155 million pesos in 1987; second, the greater cost of placing elections and political play on the forefront once more of the national agenda to the detriment of the need to focus at this time on development, the economy, and social reforms.

Three, the [words indistinct] given for the proposal is the imperative of solving the dilemma of a joint national and local elections in May of 1992 requiring the voter to write some 50 names on the ballot. It has been pointed out, however, that the two elections can be separated without having to change the Constitution by resetting the local elections instead. In light of the enormous cost of the proposal, it behooves us to consider very seriously the alternative which, I understand, was also contemplated by the framers of the Constitution in their deliberations. For this reason they did not specify the date of the local elections in the fundamental law itself, but left this to be determined by ordinary legislation.

Yesterday I read in the newspapers that Congressman Raul Roco had, in fact, also proposed the postponement of the local elections slated for May of 1992. And this morning Senator Pimentel informed me that he had also filed a resolution in the Senate also calling for a postponement of the local election.

We can start with the questions now. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Madame, JANE'S DEFENCE WEEKLY, an authoritative defense magazine claimed the U.S. Army's 25th Light Infantry Division was ready to help the government during the failed 1 December coup attempt. This report came after the constabulary intelligence sources said rebel soldiers were supposed to attack Camp Crame over the weekend. Have we received any report about the quote unquote aborted plan and what special red alert emergency measures the government will take in light of these persistent rumors of coup attempt?

[Aquino] Well, in fact, I think prior to my birthday there were some reports also about possible attacks in Crame and in other military camps. So we were prepared for such eventuality and while it was not announced the military camps concerned were on alert.

[Reporter] Madame, since the 25th Light Infantry Division was here for the Balikatan, a joint U.S.-R.P. [Republic of the Philippines] exercises. Would you have considered asking for the U.S. to...

[Aquino] No, in fact, you all know that all we had was the persuasion or the persuasive flights of the U.S. jets.

[Reporter] Reports say you will meet with organized labor to discuss their clamor for another round of wage increase. You have said before that government is not going to effect another wage increase as it did the last time. Is it true that you will meet with them and what do you intend to discuss with the labor leaders.

[Aquino] My meeting with the labor leaders is not in connection with their clamor for increase in the minimum wage because I have already announced that it will be the regional wage boards that will decide on the minimum wage obtaining in the different regions. I will meet with them as I meet with other sectors. They have asked for a meeting and I have told my staff here to prepare for such a meeting.

[Reporter] Madame, Lito Zulueta of the CHRONICLE. As a follow through, there is this question about the wage issue. The wage boards in the regional levels have not been activated. Have you a standing order to the Department of Labor and Employment to activate these councils?

[Aquino] Yes, in fact, I did sign a memorandum giving notice to the secretary of labor to see to it that the regional wage boards are informed and ready to discuss this matter of minimum wage.

[Reporter] On another topic, Madame. The PCGG [Presidential Commission on Good Government] revamp has been hanging for so long. In the past [words indistinct] to have a more vigorous prosecution of ill-gotten wealth cases against Marcos and his close associates. Is the revamp designed to energize apparently slacking efforts to recover the ill-gotten wealth and who will be the members of the new commission?

[Aquino] Well, Mat Caparas has, of course, been back for about a week now and I have been discussing this matter with him. We are going to change two of the commissioners, but I am just waiting for confirmation on the name of one commissioner whom Chairman Mat Caparas has approached to be a part of the commission.

[Reporter] On another topic, there appears to be a long procession of high-level officials of the Bush administration to your office. Weeks back there were Deputy National Security Adviser Robert Gates and then after him there was Congressman Jim Kolbe of Bush's Republican Party. Next month you will be visited by Defense Secretary Dick Cheney [word indistinct] to discuss the fate of the U.S. bases. What do all these visits mean in the context of U.S. interest in the country, specifically the fate of the bases?

[Aquino] I think this is nothing unusual. All over the world officials of one government visit other countries because the general trend is really to develop closer ties with all friendly countries. So I do not see anything unusual here in the matter of talking about the bases. It is not Secretary Cheney who has been designated as chairman of the U.S. panel. It is Ambassador Platt.

[Reporter] I am Rachel Tan from BUSINESS WORLD. Earlier Commissioner Ong said that the BIR [Bureau of Internal Revenue] will not meet its revenues target for 1990 because of Congress' failure to approve 35 measures increasing taxes on alcoholic beverages, beer, and cigarettes. At the same time, tax exemptions are being granted to the transportation industry. What will the executive do about this loss of revenues?

[Aquino] First of all we will appeal to the congressmen to enact the necessary measures so that the taxes on liquor and on tobacco will be increased as soon as possible.

[Reporter] As a result of the coup attempt people are saying that the government's privatization program has bogged down. Furthermore there are people who are saying that the sales should, in fact, accelerate as a result of the crisis for more government revenues. Please comment.

[Aquino] Well, I have always instructed the APT [Assets Privatization Trust] to hurry up with its privatization plans and in fact we are doing so. Sometimes it does get bogged down because of some court disputes which are brought by the, sometimes by the previous owners of the said assets.

[Reporter] Good afternoon, Madame. The Commission on Appointments has required the appearance of the three Cabinet coordinating secretaries to be submitted for confirmation. [words indistinct] subjected for confirmation since they are tasked to supervise the heads of the Executive departments. Are you amenable, Madame, to the appearance of the said officials?

[Aquino] Well, first of all they are not tasked to supervise the heads of the departments. You know, that was made clear that they are not higher in rank to the heads of the different departments. Since they are not heads of departments, I am really not inclined to submit their names for confirmation to the Commission on Appointments.

[Reporter] It was commented that during the recent visits of the Deputy National Security Robert Gates and U.S. Representative Jim Kolbe, different interpretations and speculations were played up, both here and abroad regarding issues discussed with them. This include the possibility of holding snap elections, and quote unquote keeping your house in order, and, the latest of which, you were allegedly in favor of retaining the bases after 1991. [words indistinct] your options of open policy? In the slated visit of U.S. Defense Secretary Cheney, will the media be given more access to specific issues that will be discussed [words indistinct] another misinterpretation of facts?

[Aquino] I do not think it will help if ...[changes thought] Do you mean to say that media will be present when I am talking with Secretary Cheney? Is that it?

[Reporter] If setting aside diplomatic niceties, something like that.

[Aquino] There are some things which are of a very, you know, secret nature. But anyway, whatever concerns the Filipino people directly, I will just tell them. But really, too much was made of these visits of Gates and Kolbe when there really was not anything of such urgent or grave concern. So whenever I believe it is something that is necessary for the Filipino people to know, certainly I will tell them. And it is not as if we are at fault when all of these different reports come in because I think sometimes this is just a figment of the imagination of some members of media, not necessarily here, because I understand this was first reported in the American newspapers.

[Reporter] [name indistinct] of the MANILA TIMES. In the statements you made a while ago, could you please clarify if you are categorically against the holding of free elections?

[Aquino] First of all, you know when you say: categorically say that you are against. I said first of all this is really up to the people to decide. And now I am stating here that there is not just one option, you know, in the matter of holding elections because of the 50 or so names that one will have to write down in the elections of May of 1992. It has been pointed out that there is another option and we do not have to go through a plebiscite. We can do it if Congress will, in fact, enact a law which will postpone the holding of local elections after May of 1992. So I can say that I am categorically in favor of first what will cost the Filipino people less in terms of not having to hold a plebiscite. As I said it cost something like 150 million pesos in 1987. But more important than that is I do not want the interest of the people, especially in government, to be distracted from the main and from the more important concerns such as economic development and also for our resolve in order to speed up the programs, especially the pro-poor programs. So you could say that, I favor the second option, that is, postponing the local elections slated for May 1992 to a later date.

[Reporter] In case Congress proceeds with the amendment in the Constitution and the bill is presented to you for signing, would you veto the bill?

[Aquino] No, no. The way it is done ...[changes thought] Anyway we have a constitution commissioner here. I am told that and I have read this in the Constitution, if three-fourths of the [words indistinct] the Congress upon a vote of three-fourths of all of its members or a constitutional convention can propose any amendment to a revision of the Constitution. So in this regard, it is not necessary. I mean to say it is not necessary for me to veto it or not because Congress upon a vote of three-fourths of all of its members can already propose an amendment to the Constitution. Now the other way they can do it is Congress may by a vote of two-thirds of all of its members call a constitutional convention or by a majority vote of all its members submit to the electorate the question of calling such a convention. So the way I see it, probably what will only be necessary for me is to sign the law calling for a plebiscite. All I have to do is if they have decided by a vote of three-fourths on any amendment to the Constitution, then insofar as the president is concerned, it will just be a matter of declaring when the plebiscite will be held.

Rebels' Families Ordered Out of Aguinaldo

HK2701062290 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 0600 GMT 27 Jan 90

[Text] The families of rebel soldiers still at large have been ordered to leave their residences inside Camp Aguinaldo. The order was issued by Camp Aguinaldo commander Virgilio Marcelo to the families of all rebel officers who took part in the aborted December coup d'etat. Among them is the family of Commodore Domingo Calajate, former chief of the Logistics Command, who led the assault of Camp Aguinaldo at the height of the December coup attempt.

Rebel General Abenina Captured in Quezon City

HK2901022090 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 0200 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Text] Elements of the Capital Region Command have captured one of the leaders of the recent aborted coup d'etat, Brigadier General Edgardo Abenina, at a Quezon City subdivision. Sel Baisa has the full report:

[Begin recording] Abenina, who has a P1 million reward on his head, was arrested at a house in (?Sunville) Subdivision, Barangay Kulyap, at 0200 [1800 GMT 28 Jan] this morning. A report from Camp Aguinaldo said Abenina had just arrived at the house from his hide-out in Antipolo, Rizal. The house where Abenina was caught is owned by a certain Boy Ramos who surrendered and turned in his weapon, a 9-mm gun. [end recording]

Aquino Signs Law Creating Islamic Bank

HK2701040090 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 0230 GMT 27 Jan 90

[From the "Malacanang Info Service" program by Tanny Rodriguez from Kalayaan Hall, Malacanang Palace; in English]

[Text] President Aquino yesterday signed into law Republic Act No 6848, providing a charter for an authentic Islamic Bank, a measure which she said was another solid evidence of government's concern for Muslim Filipinos. The act establishes the charter of the Al-Amanah Islamic Investment Bank of the Philippines.

The signing was witnessed by Senate President Jovito Salonga, House Speaker Ramon D. Mitra, Senators Mamintal Tamano and Santanina Rasul, and the bill's principal author, Representative Michael Mastura, in Malacanang.

In brief remarks after approving the measure, the president said that the new charter affirmed anew the underlying unity, that is, to reach out to one another in our pluralistic democracy. The president said, and I quote: This proves that we have room aplenty in our society for diverse forms of economic enterprises suitable to the culture and ways of our people. End of quote.

The measures, she added, underscored government's commitments to bring the benefits of economic growth to all segments of the country's citizenry. Mrs Aquino said the new law repels Presidential Decree [PD] 264 as amended by PD 542, which created the Philippine Amanah Bank. The president said the assets, liabilities, and capital accounts of the bank are hereby transferred to the Al-Amanah Islamic Investment Bank.

The new bank's authorized capital stock is placed at 1 billion pesos, of which 510 million pesos will be made available to its present shareholders, including the national government and other financial firms it may designate. The measure provides that 90 million pesos will be made available for suscription to Filipino individuals or institutions, and 400 million pesos for suscription to both Filipino and foreign individuals, institutions, and entities.

The president said the new charter embodies new concepts such as (riva), or interest prohibitions, or (sakat) in lieu of interest or dividends, and other forms of incentives aimed at encouraging Islamic investments. These investments would provide funds in support of agricommercial and industrial ventures in Muslim areas and neighboring provinces. The scheme provides that any (sakat) or (tife) paid by the bank on behalf of shareholders or depositors should be considered as its compliance to its obligation to provide said fund and to disburse in legitimate channels.

The law takes effect 15 days after its publication in two newspapers of general circulation.

Muslim Rebels Attack Cotabato Barangays

HK2701074090 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog 0700 GMT 27 Jan 90

[Text] Our report concerns an attack by 2,000 Muslim rebels on 10 barangays in Cotabato.

Here is the full report direct from Davao City by Joey Dalumpines:

[Begin recording in English] Here is the report gathered by DXGN/FM Davao City. Tension intensifies in the surrounding barangays of Pikit, Cotabato as sporadic fighting continues between defending CAFGU [Citizens Armed Forces Geographical Units] troopers and an unaccounted number of heavily armed men since 4 o'clock this morning.

Initial reports gathered by the (?BCM-CBS) news bureau said 2,000 heavily armed rebels penetrated surrounding barangays of Pikit Town and almost got through the town center when repelled by government troopers.

However, reports turned in by the NDB news station in Central Mindanao said that there are five barangays confirmed to be occupied by rebel forces, namely: barangays Silid, Kulambog, Latdingan, Manaulanan, Panikupahan, and Sibutok [as heard], all of Pikit, Cotabato.

One person was killed in the first burst of firing this morning. She was identified as Mrs Villarosa, wife of a PC [Philippine Constabulary] trooper residing in Pikit Town. The incident resulted in the evacuation of the residents who are temporarily sheltered in the barangay public schools and other safer areas.

Military authorities confirmed that the seige was launched by the tactical alliance between the Moro National Liberation Front and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front. The report added that military helicopter gunships repelled enemy forces in Barangay Guili-Guili and a portion of Barangay Latdingan, the first two barangays occupied by the rebels.

As of press time, military operations continue in the area.

This is a report from DXGN/FM, Davao City, relayed from the NDB news bureau in Central Mindanao for DWRV Radio Veritas. Joey Dalumpines reporting. [end recording]

Meanwhile, reports as of 0645 this afternoon claim that the CAFGU members are defending the five barangays of Pikit, Cotabato under seige, and that no reinforcement from the military has arrived yet. Communication lines throughout Cotabato are still dead.

Thailand

Joint Study To Fight U.S. Farm Act

BK2901014590 Bangkok THE NATION in English 29 Jan 90 p 16

[By Wilailak Saiwilai]

[Text] The Commerce Ministry will invite rice exporters and millers to join in a study on strategies to fight the U.S. Farm Act.

The study will form part of the memorandum on the Thai position, which opposes the U.S. government's subsidies on American rice exports and its dubious announcement of the so-called "world rice prices", for submission to the U.S. Embassy.

The decision to have participation from the private sector was made at the Friday meeting of the working group on the U.S. Farm Act.

Oranut Osathanon, director general of the Foreign Trade Department, said members of the Thai Rice Exporters' Association and the Thai Rice Millers' Association would be invited to join the working group as these private sector operators have a good knowledge of the rice market.

The International Economic Relations Committee, chaired by Deputy Prime Minister Phong Sarasin, would be informed of the decision to admit the rice exporters and millers to the working group.

The working group plans to come up with a summary paper on the Thai position for the U.S. Embassy in Bangkok and the Thai Economic Counsellors in Washington DC. The summary paper will help to coordinate the supply of information between government agencies and the lobbyist who has been hired to act on behalf of Thailand in Washington.

Thailand will inform the U.S. that the subsidization of U.S. rice exports through the Farm Act have brought hardship to Thai farmers. The U.S. subsidies to American farmers and exporters are as high as 100-200 percent.

When the Farm Act was introduced in 1986, the U.S. rice subsidies amounted to Baht 26 billion. At that time, Thai rice faced a price slump in the world market and exports amounted to only Baht 19 billion.

Oranut said Thailand will also file a complaint on undisclosed criteria adopted by the U.S. government when announcing "world prices" to set a benchmark for subsidization of U.S. rice exports. Rice is a commodity with which the U.S. government could not expect to have precise information on the situation in every producing country, she said.

Discussion Topics During Ryzhkov's Feb Visit

BK2701092290 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 0000 GMT 27 Jan 90

[Text] Soviet Prime Minister Nikolay Ryzhkov is scheduled to pay an official visit to Thailand from 11-12 February. While in Bangkok, he will discuss with Prime Minister General Chatchai Chunhawan bilateral economic and political relations. They will discuss ways to promote bilateral trade, whose volume has increased every year. The two leaders are expected to sign protocols on establishing a joint scientific cooperation committee and on the 1990-1991 Cultural Cooperation Program.

The two prime minister are also expected to discuss the Cambodian problem. The Thai side will have the opportunity to gauge the Soviet position on the matter in the latter's capacity as permanent member of the UN Security Council. The two leaders will also hold talks on the situation in Asia and the Pacific and on global political and economic changes.

Sitthi Downplays Deng's Remark About Gorbachev

BK2701025090 Bangkok THE NATION in English 27 Jan 90 p 2

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Sitthi Sawetsila yesterday downplayed Deng Xiaoping's prediction that Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev would eventually be ousted by conservatives in his country.

The paramount Chinese leader was quoted by the Hong Kong-based SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST as predicting at a meeting of party elders last week in Beijing that hardliners would be resurgent in Moscow due to the ethnic and nationalist unrest now sweeping the Soviet Union. Deng was also quoted as saying that the remaining Asian socialist nations—China, Vietnam and North Korea—should try to band together to "safeguard socialism."

Sitthi said Deng's statements were simply aimed at pre-empting a devastating political uprising in China.

"I think Mr Deng said so to prevent any possible internal unrest similar to that Moscow is facing," said Sitthi. The foreign minister said he did not believe that the statement by the Chinese leader signaled an imminent break-up of the two communist superpowers' relationship.

"Mr Deng as a Chinese statesmen may have a broader perspective. Whether he is right or wrong in his prediction, I understand that he is not harbouring any grudges agianst a country by making the statement," the minister said.

Sino-Soviet ties now in the process of normalization will not be affected by Deng's prediction because the two countries regard each other's affairs as the other's domestic problem, Sitthi said.

Sitthi pointed out that Gorbachev never criticized the Chinese leadership for its crackdown on the democracy movement in June, and China has not commented on the unrest now underway in Azerbaijan. The minister said he hoped Gorbachev would be able to resolve his domestic problems soon.

"I hope Mr Gorbachev will be able to overcome all the difficulties through peaceful means. He has been steering the country along the right track—towards reducing global tension with his perestroyka and glasnost policies," Sitthi said. "I believe everybody wants Mr Gorbachev to achieve what he has intended to do." [passage omitted]

Group Plans CPT Leader's Return From PRC

BK2401141090 Bangkok MATICHON in Thai 23 Jan 90 pp 1, 2

[Text] MATICHON has learned from military sources that a working group has been set up by the army commander in chief and acting supreme commander, General Chawalit Yongchaiyut, to coordinate with Chinese authorities for the return of Pluang Wannasi, a key member of the Communist Party of Thailand [CPT] Central Committee who is now living in Kunming, China. This is under the national development program in line with the anti-insurgency policy known as Policy 66/2523. Members of the working group are officials who have close contacts with China.

According to the sources, the armed forces inspector general, General Phat Akkhanibut, visited China in the middle of January. Although his mission was to report to China the results of talks in Thailand between Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas and representatives of the four Khmer factions, it is believed that he also contacted Pluang.

According to the sources, there are still about 20 key CPT members in China. They live in Kunming, Kwangchow, and Beijing. Wirat Angkhathawon, alias S. Than, a Politburo member, is now receiving treatment in Beijing. He is half paralyzed and his brain is not functioning. Plaung Wannasi is in Kunming. The rest are: Sak Suphakasem, former CPT Central Committee member; Mrs Supha Suphakasem; Mrs Taeng-on Chandawong, wife of Khrong Chandawong; Mrs Nit Phongdapphet, former CPT Central Committe member.

The sources said that the Chinese authorities no longer give them complete assistance, as in the past. They do not give much credit to those CPT members. They let them stay in China, but did not care much about providing them with facilities. The CPT leaders are given only a small amount of money. They would have to pay their own expenses if they wished to return to Thailand. The Thai and Chinese authorities will only provide them with needed facilities.

The sources said that those CPT members strongly wish to return to Thailand. They are old, and would, therefore, be happier with their relatives in Thailand. But, since they once fought for their ideology and used to be leading CPT members, they wish to bypass formalities and regulations through negotiations with the authorities for the sake of their honor.

The source said Pluang Wannasi is now 65 years old and suffering from asthma. He has had an operation and has only one lung now. Reportedly, he is in poor health and cannot work. He is looking forward to his return to Thailand. Pluang contacted the military about his return because he thinks the military would provide him with better security than other government agencies.

The sources said that there are only a few leading CPT members who have not yet contacted the authorities to surrender. Of the 35 Central Committee members in the 4th Congress, some have surrendered and others have been arrested or died. Only seven are left. They are: Wirat Angkhathawon; Thong Chaemsi, alias S. Din; Prasit Taphianthong, or S. Hong; Pluang Wannasi; Luan Iamsakun, or S. Prachum; Hiang Chaichumkhun, or S. Wichan; and Sun Ungthong, or S. Likuang.

Thong Chaemsi is still active. It is believed that he is already in Thailand—in Pua District of Nan Province. Prasit is also in Thailand. Luan, Hiang, and Sun are believed to be operating in the south.

The sources said that two alternate members of the Central Committee who have not surrendered are: Hu Sae Lim, or S. Udom, and Doctor Phairat Supphakanchanakanti, or S. Chaeng. Hu has a business in the south, whereas Doctor Phairat is living in Kanchanaburi. As they have nothing to do with the CPT anymore, authorities do not think they are a threat to national security and allow them to pursue their livelihood as honest citizens.

Khmer Rouge Move 4,000 Refugees Into Cambodia

BK2701015090 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 27 Jan 90 p 2

[Text] The Khmer Rouge have moved more than 4,000 refugees across the border into Cambodia in the past five days, allowing only one family to go to a United Nations-run camp inside Thailand, aid officials said yesterday. The family was moved from Borai to Site K on Thursday in an exceptional case that officials are yet to fathom.

The bulk of the Borai population, previously estimated at 4,400, crossed the border since Monday, under instructions from the guerrilla leadership known to resist any threat to their control.

The guerrillas' coup obstructed an attempt by the United Nations Border Relief Operation (UNBRO) to improve access to international food and medical aid for the civilian population.

Borai has long been described by officials as a "closed camp" while Site K, located at a safer place, is modelled along the more open style of Site 8.

The Khmer Rouge showed their disapproval of the plan by opening fire last Monday shortly after UNBRO trucks arrived to begin the move.

Article Considers Military Role for ASEAN

BK2501011190 Bangkok THE NATION in English 25 Jan 90 p 8

[Article by Atthawibun Sisuworanan: "Is ASEAN Ready for a Military Role"]

[Text] Indonesia's recent proposal that ASEAN consider sending troops and civilian personnel into Cambodia to assist in implementation of a peace settlement is attracting ASEAN members' attention.

Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas, co-chairman of the Paris conference on Cambodia, recently proposed the idea privately to other ASEAN members in the process of organizing a new round of informal talks on the Cambodian conflict to be held in Jakarta next month.

The suggestion is being taken increasingly seriously because of the changing situation in Indochina. Prospects for peace are growing in Cambodia, and Vietnam is perceived as less of a military threat by ASEAN nations since its troop withdrawal from Cambodia and Laos last year.

Indonesia's basic proposal was that ASEAN form a joint armed force to participate in a United Nations "international control mechanism" (ICM) that would maintain peace and oversee general elections. However, Alatas went further by suggesting that the joint ASEAN force, with the consent of the Cambodian factions, carry out the task itself if a UN-ICM is rejected in the process of peace neogiations.

Alatas recently told a senior Thai official that an ASEAN role is inevitable given the grouping's capacity to supply an ICM with personnel who not only have regional military experience, but also have the advantage of cultural proximity to the Cambodian people.

An international mechanism under UN auspices, under a plan proposed to the Paris conference last August, would involve about 6,000-7,000 peace-keeping and 300-800 administrative personnel to oversee general elections. The UN-ICM's size would likely be expanded if it had the additional function of administering the country before and during general elections.

Effective interim control of the country by the United Nations was called for in a recent proposal made by Australia, which is now gaining a following because it circumvents the problematic question of power sharing among the Cambodian factions, a point that deadlocked the Paris conference.

On the other hand, the question of an ASEAN role in Cambodia has been discussed for quite some time. Tan Sri Ghazari Zhafi, former Malaysian foreign minister, proposed as part of a peace package in 1982 that regional powers, including ASEAN members, Vietnam and Laos form a task forces to verify a Vietnamese troop withdrawal from Cambodia. The Malaysian proposal was the first to treat the conflict as a regional problem to be solved regionally.

Zhafi's proposal was instantly killed, not only because it was presented well ahead of its time and the opposition of Vietnam, which then had the upper hand in the conflict after a successful campaign against Cambodian resistance guerrillas along the Thai border, but also because some ASEAN countries including Indonesia and Singapore argued that it was illogical for Vietnam to verify its own withdrawal.

Indonesia's most recent proposal has gained only limited public acceptance. Only Malaysia has mentioned that it is ready to send in Malaysian troops and civil servants to help Cambodia implement a peace agreement.

But while the other ASEAN members have shown reluctance to commit to anything but further consultations on the idea of "ASEAN joint armed forces," Vietnam is more enthusiastic. Vietnamese Deputy Foreign Minister Tran Quang Co said in Chiang Mai recently that he would welcome such as ASEAN role in Cambodia.

Had Co's comment officially reflected Hanoi's thinking, there would be considerable impetus for the Indonesian proposal. But Indonesia still needs collective ASEAN consent to put the wheels in motion.

One unmentioned factor is intra-ASEAN competitiveness. Thailand, for example, would likely be worried since the proposal would mean Indonesia presenting itself physically in mainland Southeast Asia. It is only clear that the simple idea of a joint ASEAN force necessitates a debate on the future shape of ASEAN cooperation in general.

Taking account of ASEAN's achievements in security cooperation, members states have never moved beyond some form of bilateral or tripartite military exercises, and even these have been comparatively small annual events. Even the most significant security effort by the regional organization, assisting the Cambodian resistance forces fighting the Vietnamese occupying troops, involved primarily Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand.

There would be far-reaching implications for the region if a joint ASEAN force is formed. It would signify that the security aspect of ASEAN's regional cooperation would be heightened vis-a-vis its economic cooperation. On the other hand, if no force is agreed to, cultural and economic cooperation would dominate the regional grouping in the future after the Cambodian conflict has been resolved.

Programmes for economic and cultural cooperation in the next decade have already been agreed to in principle, but security for the region has essentially not been looked into yet.

Eventually, ASEAN will have to consider giving substantial assistance to Cambodia in its search for peace and independence. The need to show regional solidarity is unavoidable for ASEAN if it still wishes to rebuild and promote the region's stability and economic prosperity as a whole. The only question left to be considered is whether the aid for Cambodia should include a military form or not.

In any case ASEAN will have to make it clear that this sort of role can only be conducted collectively with international consent and agreement.

Lao Refugees Repatriated From Camps

BK2701035090 Bangkok THE NATION in English 27 Jan 90 p 2

[Text] Nong Khai—Ninety-eight Laotian refugees in Nakhon Phanom were handed over to Lao authorities yesterday under a voluntary repatriation programme.

The refugees, 77 from Na Pho camp and 21 from Ban Nong Saeng camp, were handed over to Laotian authorities by a Thai delegation led by Yut Kuson, a senior Nong Khai provincial official.

Chatchai Receives Turkish Deputy Prime Minister

BK2501143190 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1300 GMT 25 Jan 90

[Text] At Government House at 1430 today, Prime Minister General Chatchai Chunhawan received Turkish Deputy Prime Minister Ali Bozer and his delegation on the occasion of their official visit to Thailand as guests of the Thai Government. The visit to Thailand is at the invitation of Deputy Prime Minister Phong Sarasin, who visited Turkey late last year. The goal is to promote relations between the two countries.

The Turkish deputy prime minister also held official talks with the Thai prime minister on Thai-Turkish trade relations as well as on joint investments, the volume of which is still low. They also exchanged views on political changes in Eastern Europe as they affect exploring new markets.

Sitthi Receives Turkish Deputy Prime Minister

BK2601084890 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 0530 GMT 26 Jan 90

[Text] At the Foreign Ministry this morning, Turkish Deputy Prime Minister Ali Bozer called on Foreign Minister Air Chief Marshal Sitthi Sawetsila. The Turkish visitor informed his Thai counterpart of Turkey becoming a member of the European Community and of changes in Eastern Europe. Sitthi briefed the Turkish deputy prime minister on the current situations in Southeast Asia and the East Asia-Pacific region. Both sides also exchanged views on their two countries' economic and trade cooperation and expressed desires to promote further trade between the two countries.

Thailand expects Turkey to become a gateway for trade to the Middle East and European countries, while Turkey sees Thailand as a gateway for trade to Indochina and East Asia.

Premier To Seek Malaysian Help Against Muslims

BK2401011990 Bangkok THE NATION in English 24 Jan 90 p 3

[Text] Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan will seek Malaysia's cooperation in suppressing Muslim separatists near the southern Thai border, a Government House press release said yesterday.

The release said Thailand needed Kuala Lumpur's cooperation to deal with the insurgents as the Thai government had given in helping Malaysia disband the Communist Party of Malaya [CPM] based in Thai border jungles.

About 300 separatists are active in Thailand's lower south and Thai security officials said the movement has been supported by some local officials in northern Malaysia. The officials said the separatists, whose proclaimed goal was to establish an autonomous Muslim state in the four southernmost Thai provinces, sometimes fled military crackdowns into Malaysian border areas.

The separatist problem was discussed by Cabinet members before their weekly meeting at Government House yesterday.

Deputy Interior Minister Trairong Suwannakhiri reportedly told the Cabinet that the Muslim insurgents had a "headquarters" in northern Malaysia. The Interior Ministry also reported yesterday that all schools in Yala and Narathiwat, which had been closed due to fears of Muslim separatist violence against teachers, have reopened.

The schools were closed after a separatist group abducted a female teacher to demand the release of the wife of one of its group members. Last month's kidnapping prompted teachers to boycott classes in Yala, demanding government action to guarantee their safety.

The government sent security forces to Yala, which drove many separatists into neighbouring Narathiwat. Many schools in Narathiwat were subsequently closed due to teachers' fears that the fleeing guerrillas might harass them as well.

Trairong told the Cabinet that Bt20 million would be spent on military campaigns against the separatists as a "short-term" measure. He said the Interior Ministry was drafting a long-term plan to uproot the guerrilla movement.

The current drive against Muslim separatists followed the Dec 2 signing of peace agreements to end the CPM's decades-old insurgency war against the Malaysian government. CPM members fled across the Malaysian border in the 1950s into southern Thai jungles where they carried out hit-and-run operations against targets in northern Malaysia. The peace accords were signed after several rounds of negotiations with Thailand as a mediator.

Solidarity Party Seeks No-Confidence Motion

BK2701032090 Bangkok THE NATION in English 27 Jan 90 p 1

[By Naowarat Suksamran]

[Text] Khon Kaen—The Solidarity Party vowed yesterday to submit a no-confidence motion against the entire Chatchai Cabinet, which it has accused of corruption and inefficiency.

The largest opposition party announced its biggest offensive yet against the government during a rally at the Provincial Hall here yesterday evening.

"This government should not be entrusted with administering the country further," Solidarity Secretary-General Chaloemphan Siwikon told thousands of people attending the rally. He charged that the 16-month-old government has allowed corruption to proliferate and carried out policies which benefitted "capitalists" but harmed the general economy.

As expected, the opposition party took advantage of the current scandal involving a forest project of Senator Kitti Damnoenchanwanit, and economic adviser to Premier Chatchai Chunhawan.

"Many people are calling on the agriculture minister to show his responsibility, but that is not enough," Chaloemphan said. "The prime minister must also take the blame."

Chaloemphan said the government had tolerated wild land speculation, causing land prices to skyrocket, and allowed rich foreigners to buy more and more land through legal loopholes. He said that over the past three years over 700,000 land title deeds had changed hands through "agents" with deals valued at Baht 200 billion. Most of the land was bought by foreigners, he alleged.

The Solidarity Party, which claims it has strong evidence to back corruption charges against the government, has unsuccessfully pushed for a no-confidence debate against the government before Parliament reconvenes in May. Its motion, which calls for an out-of-session censure debate without voting, still lacks the required support in Parliament.

A motion seeking an extraordinary parliamentary session requires the endorsement of at least 208 MPs and senators. A no-confidence motion, however, needs the support of only one-fifth of all 357 MPs.

The Solidarity Party launched a censure campaign against four ministers last July despite conflicts with the Prachakon Thai Party, its main ally, which sidelined itself during the three-day no-confidence session.

—Deputy Solidarity leader Wira Musikaphong yesterday denied reports that Supreme Commander Chawalit Yongchaiyut would become the leader of his party after the officer resigns from military service.

"The reports that General Chawalit will replace (Solidarity leader Narong Wongwan) because our leader is ill are not true," Wira said. However, he said if the military chief really wants to join Solidarity, "I see no reason why we would reject him."

Wira also warned Chawalit, who has reiterated his intention to quit military service soon, against joining the prime minister's Chat Thai Party, which the MP alleged is plagued with corruption.

"Gen Chawalit should think twice if he wants to join Chat Thai," he said.

Opposition Leader Urges Chatchai Resignation

BK2601012190 Bangkok THE NATION in English 26 Jan 90 p 3

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan should resign to show his responsibility for the forest encroachment scandal involving one of his economic advisers, Prachakon Thai Party leader Samak Suntharawet said.

"Resignation is the only way for the prime minister to show his responsibility and to disentangle himself from the scandal," Samak said. "The prime minister cannot escape from disgrace by playing down the issue."

The prominent opposition leader said he believes General Chatchai would be elected prime minister again if he resigned as head of the six-party coalition government.

On Monday, a police task force led by Assistant Police Director General Prathin Santipraphop arrested 156 workers of the Suan Kitti in a raid on the Huai Rabom-Siyat national forest reserve. Pol Lt Gen [Police Lieutenant General] Prathin said Suan Kitti Co, owned by Kitti Damnoenchanwanit, economic adviser to the prime minister, trespassed on and caused damage to tens of thousands of rai in Huai Rabom-Siyat forest reserve.

The assistant police chief said the company had not yet been granted a licence to develop 1,800 rai of "denuded forest," yet the company workers had already begun felling trees in the national forest reserve.

But Kitti claimed that the company had the approval of Agriculture Minister Maj Gen [Major General] Sanan Khachonprasat to operate in the area but that government red tape had delayed the licencing. Suan Kitti has won approval to lease 17 plots located inside the Huai

Rabom-Siyat forest reserve, covering a total of about 20,000 rai of denuded forests. [passage omitted]

Khukrit Advises Chatchai To Reshuffle or Resign

BK2801022090 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 28 Jan 90 pp 1, 3

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan should reshuffle the Cabinet or resign so a new government can be formed, following claims of forest encroachment by the Suan Kitti Company of Senator Kitti Damnoenchanwanit, former premier M.R. Khukrit Pramot said yesterday.

If General Chatchai reshuffled the Cabinet, Agriculture Minister Sanan Khachonprasat of the Democrat Party should go to another portfolio, M.R. Khukrit told reporters at his Soi Suan Phlu home.

The alleged encroachment was serious and could undoubtedly lead to a major change, he said. "The problem is major. Judging from the situation, a Cabinet reshuffle will be necessary." It would be better if Gen Chatchai resigned, clearing the way for a new government, M.R. Khukrit said.

The Democrat Party was divided on this issue, probably because there were many factions and, since the New Year, the party has had several internal conflicts.

As a co-founder of the Democrats, M.R. Khukrit said he felt the party in Parliament and Cabinet had produced no visible work results beneficial to the people. The Democrat Party was now politically weak and expected to get fewer seats in the next general election, he said. He felt sorry for many capable Democrat MPs [members of parliament] because the party's image was very poor. If the Government allowed this situation to prevail it was unlikely to survive until the opening of Parliament. A senator was involved in the forest controversy and the Opposition had been hunting for signatures to seek an extraordinary session of Parliament, he said.

"The controversy could even lead to a dissolution of Parliament, because the scandal is serious. If the Prime Minister could solve this problem without making any change, I would give him the thumbs up," he said.

Whether Gen Chatchai would reshuffle the Cabinet or resign depended on his mood. No matter what he might do, Gen Chatchai would return as prime minister anyway because the Chat Thai Party controls most seats in the House, M.R. Khukrit said.

The Democrat Party lost its image when its leader, Phichai Rattakun, resigned as deputy prime minister, but the Democrat ministers clinged to Cabinet seats and no longer have faith in Mr Phichai, the former premier noted.

"I don't want to say that the Democrat Party is now near its end. I would rather say it's now at a blind spot."

Regarding alleged forest encroachment by Suan Kitti Company, M.R. Khukrit said Major-General Sanan should resign to show his responsibility or the Government would be in trouble.

"If the Democrat Party was out of the coalition, the Government would be able to breathe more easily. If the Prime Minister [PM] asked me for advice, I would give him this opinion," M.R. Khukrit said.

The former PM said he knew about the alleged encroachment since the time of former premier Prem Tinsulanon, but it was not exposed because the Government at that time was well united. [passage omitted]

Minister Says No Change in Government Coalition

BK2901004590 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 29 Jan 90 pp 1, 2

[Excerpt] Agriculture Minister Sanan Khachonprasat reaffirmed yesterday there will be no change in the government coalition, despite the Democrats facing heavy criticism over alleged close links with a firm accused of forest encroachment in Chachoengsao Province.

Maj-Gen [Major General] Sanan, who said he met Prime Minister [PM] Chatchai Chunhawan yesterday, said the PM gave him moral support and urged him to fight the allegations.

Democrat ministers are expected to touch on the controversy at a meeting today. They usually meet on Mondays to prepare for Tuesday's Cabinet meeting.

Party ministers and MPs [members of Parliament] are scheduled to discuss the issue on Wednesday. A senior Democrat source told the BANGKOK POST last night of party concern about how to resolve the issue publicly. If the Democrats agreed to step out of the Chatchai coalition, it would be seen as bowing to political pressure, the source said.

"The Prime Minister said there will be no change in the Government," Maj-Gen Sanan said. "The party has never done anything wrong. We will consider a matter ourselves if we are at fault. The people will know the facts sooner or later," he said.

The Democrat Party has been under fire because of its alleged close relations with Kitti Damnoenchanwanit, owner and managing-director of the agro-conglomerate Kaset Rungruang (Sun Hua Seng Group), who also owns Suan Kitti Company. Suan Kitti is alleged to have encroached on forest reserve in Sanam Chai Khet District of Chachoengsao.

Former Prime Minister M.R. Khukrit Pramot yesterday suggested because of the controversy Maj-Gen Sanan should resign. He also said the scandal was serious and that in this situation a Cabinet reshuffle was necessary, with Maj-Gen Sanan being switched to another portfolio. M.R. Khukrit said an alternative was for Gen Chatchai to resign to pave way for the formation of a new government.

Maj-Gen Sanan reaffirmed yesterday that the forest reserve in question was in a deteriorated condition, judging from satellite photos of 1988. Therefore, the Forestry Department agreed that a private firm should be allowed to carry out a reafforestation project there. As far as Suan Kitti Company is concerned, Maj-Gen Sanan said if the company was found to have started the project before obtaining official approval from the Forestry Department, or was encroaching on more land than the 1,831 rai allocated, it would be subject to legal action. [passage omitted]

New Heroin Refineries Set Up in North

BK2901005590 Bangkok THE NATION in English 29 Jan 90 p 1

[Text] Eighteen more heroin refineries have been set up in northern Thailand which borders Laos and Burma, according to a senior anti-drug official who predicted a "tough time" for Thailand's efforts to fight narcotics trafficking this year.

Pol Maj Gen [Police Major General] Kowit Phuphanit, chief of the Police Department's drug suppression centre, said authorities were keeping a close watch on the heroin plants, but declined to give other details.

Kowit said Thailand, where heroin production has substantially declined due to repeated crackdown by authorities, will continue to be a major centre for drug trafficking due to increased opium production in Burma and Laos.

He said the notorious Golden Triangle, which covers border areas of Thailand, Burma, and Laos, will produce between 1,800-2,500 tonnes of opium this year with Burma being the biggest source.

The officer pointed out that continuing political turmoil in Burma has prevented Burmese authorities from taking action against opium growers.

He said opium production in Thailand was expected to be around 30 tonnes this year, adding that poppy is grown in nine northern provinces and six northeastern provinces.

The increased production volumes in Burma and Laos would lead to an influx of heroin to Thailand, which is a major transit point for drugs to the West.

"Our suppression efforts will be challenged" by a new round of heroin influx, Kowit said.

He added that the Police Department was closely monitoring activities of police officers suspected of having connections with drug rings.

"Those people must change their behaviour immediately or they will be severely punished," Kowit warned.

Thai authorities seized 345 kilogrammes of heroin and arrested a total 10,599 suspects between January and September last year. In 1988, 2.2 tonnes of heroin was confiscated.

Thailand and Burma have agreed to increase cooperation in fighting drug problems and both countries are said to be looking into the possibility of channelling international aid to anti-Rangoon ethnic rebels. The aid would be material and technical assistance for crop substitution projects, and not financial.

The United States, alarmed by the increase of opium production in Burma, has repeatedly called on the Thai government to intensify its anti-drug campaign. The U.S. government says 40-50 percent of heroin consumed in the United States is produced in the Golden Triangle and smuggled to the West through Thailand.

Trade Deficit Rose 32 Percent in 1989

BK2601030190 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 25 Jan 90 p 17

[Text] Thailand suffered a sharp 32 percent increase in its trade deficit for 1989 over the previous year.

The country recorded a total trade deficit of 134,856 million baht last year against the targeted figure of 120,000 million baht, Bank of Thailand Deputy Governor Chawalit Thanachanan said yesterday. He said imports during 1989 totalled 647,771 million baht while exports totalled 512,915 million baht. Both imports and exports rose by about 29 percent.

The services and unrequited transfer account was 77,382 million baht in surplus, due mainly to earnings from tourism, but the current account deficit rose 37 percent to 57,474 million baht.

Thailand's net capital inflow totalled 140,093 million baht last year. Consequently the country recorded an overall payment surplus of 111,388 million baht, or double that of the preceding year.

The central bank also said economic growth in the South last year was a bit lower than that of the preceding year. But for 1990 the result is expected to be worse than last year as agricultural output was hard hit by Typhoon Gay which devasted parts of the South in November 1989.

Vietnam

Press Warns Against Efforts To Seize Leadership

BK2701155090 Hong Kong AFP in English 1540 GMT 27 Jan 90

[Text] Hanoi, Jan 27 (AFP)—A Vietnamese daily warned in its latest edition against any attempt to "seize" control of the ruling communist party, in an apparent reaction to the reforms sweeping the East bloc.

LAO DONG, the mouthpiece of the country's labor unions, warned that any attempt to take over the leadership of the Vietnamese Communist Party would threaten the "independence of the Vietnamese people and would throw up an obstacle to the prosperity of the country."

The LAO DONG editorial was reproduced Saturday [27 January] by the official VIETNAM NEWS AGENCY (VNA).

"Any attempt aimed at seizing the leadership of the party will be considered a constraint upon the historical mission of the majority of the Vietnamese people and a violation of national independence," the daily said.

In what analysts considered a clear reference to the wave of reform sweeping Eastern Europe, the commentary said that any move to take control of the party "would mean blocking the way to the prosperity and the well-being of our people."

"In other words, it would mean... denying all freedom and democracy to the Vietnamese people," said the editorial, which was entitled "Defending the Party Is Defending Intelligence, Scientific Thought and Democracy."

It is the first such warning issued by Vietnam's state-controlled press since the wave of reform and revolution began sweeping Eastern Europe, prompting unease among the state and communist party leadership here.

Vo Chi Cong, president of the State Council, said recently that the crisis in Eastern Europe "negatively influences the entire socialist system" of Vietnam and called on the party leadership to "pay close attention to it."

Nguyen Van Linh, general secretary of the party since 1986, called in December for "the consolidation of the party," both politically and ideologically.

The party central committee called in late January for a "renewal and a better quality to the party leadership."

Officials here have said that the party's next plenary session would be held after the end of February.

Vo Chi Cong Interviewed on Ties With USSR

BK2601143390 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 26 Jan 90

[Interview With State Council Chairman Vo Chi Cong by a Hanoi-based PRAVDA correspondent; date and place not given—read by announcer]

[Text] [Correspondent] Mr Chairman, what is your evaluation of the significance of the friendly Soviet relations toward the Vietnamese revolution over the past 40 years?

[Vo Chi Cong] Vietnamese-Soviet friendship has a long history. It was started and painstakingly fostered by President Ho Chi Minh who, even while seeking ways to save the country during the years when Vietnam was subjected to slavery, affirmed the need for alliance and friendship with the Soviet Union, the only country in the world that can now give all the oppressed nations absolutely sincere assistance, disinterested and equal fraternal assistance, see Les Miserables, issue No 38, April 1926, French language edition.

The Vietnamese revolution has always been closely linked to the profound and broad impact of the October Revolution, to the great victory of the Soviet people in the antifascist war, and to the vigorous support and great, highly effective assistance of the fraternal Soviet people. The establishment of diplomatic relations between the Democratic Republic of Vietnam [DRV], now the SRV, and the Soviet Union, China, and other socialist countries in January 1950 was an event of great importance to the Vietnamese resolution and a major milestone in the relations between Vietnam and the Soviet Union and other socialist countries. After the Democratic Republic of Vietnam had for years been subjected to encirclement and isolation and while the Vietnamese people's resistance against aggression was entering an extremely fierce stage, the recognition of our revolutionary state by the Soviet Union, China, and other socialist countries constituted a vigorous political support that enhanced the prestige of the DRV, opened up a period in which fraternal countries gave material aid to the Vietnamese people, and encouraged our people to win victory in our first war of resistance.

Over the past 40 years, many momentous and profound changes have taken place in the world, and the Vietnamese revolution has scored glorious successes and gone through difficult trials. But there is an unchanging factor: Vietnamese-Soviet friendship has constantly strengthened and developed. The Communist Party, people, and state of the Soviet Union have given our people wholehearted support and valuable assistance in our undertaking to liberate and reunify the fatherland and build socialism. Life has demonstrated that lasting friendship and comprehensive cooperation between Vietnam and the Soviet Union constitute a priceless asset of both peoples that is built on the lofty ideals of the October Revolution and socialism.

The Communist Party, state, and people of Vietnamese will forever be deeply grateful toward the fraternal Communist Party, state, and people of the Soviet Union; and they pledge to do their best to foster and perpetuate that friendship.

[Correspondent] As our two countries have embarked on the road of restructuring and renovation, Mr Chairman, what is your assessment of the prospects for multilateral cooperation between our two countries under the new historical conditions?

[Vo Chi Cong] To renovate the relations between the two countries is a necessity that conforms to the restructuring process in the Soviet Union and the renovation undertaking in Vietnam, which were initiated by the 27th CPSU Congress and the Sixth CPV [Communist Party of Vietnam] Congress respectively, as well as to the current trend of international relations. Under the new historical conditions, Vietnamese-Soviet relations inherit and enrich the characteristics of the existing loyal relationship between the two countries. At the same time, they call for overcoming the shortcomings of the old mechanism of cooperation which has become no longer suitable, with the aim of exploiting the potentials of both countries more satisfactorily and improving the efficiency of cooperation to the benefit of both.

Today, there exist favorable conditions for upgrading Vietnamese-Soviet relations to a new level as our two countries are determined to carry out restructuring and renovation with the aim of bringing a new strength to socialism. From a cooperative format which was mainly characterized by Vietnam's reception of aid from the Soviet Union and by state-level agreements, we have now begun to broaden cooperation in production and establish direct contact between production and business establishments on the basis of economic accounting and mutual benefit. Our two countries continue to closely coordinate with each other in dealing with important international issues such as the struggle for peace, friendship, and cooperation in Southeast Asia, Asia and the Pacific, and the rest of the world. However, since the process of restructuring and renovation has just begun, there are many issues our two parties and countries must continue to tackle in finding more diverse forms and suitable methods that will yield realistic results in order to better serve the cause of restructuring and renovation in the interest of socialism in Vietnam and the Soviet Union; and at the same time, to contribute to the struggle for peace, national independence, democracy, and socialism in the world.

Water Conservancy Project With Australia Begins

BK2701094890 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 25 Jan 90

[Text] On 24 January, a solemn ceremony was held in Cuu Long Province to inaugurate the Tam Phuong water conservancy project, a project of friendship and cooperation between Vietnam and Australia by the Mekong River Committee.

Attending the inauguration ceremony were the Australian ambassador to Vietnam, the executive secretary of the Interim Mekong Committee, and a representative of the Water Conservancy Ministry, who is currently the chairman of Vietnam's Mekong Committee. The party secretary and the People's Committee chairman of Cuu Long Province, representatives of Khmer monks in Chau Thanh District, and a large number of peasants from the province also attended the ceremony.

The Tam Phuong water conservancy project was started in 1985 and financed by the Australian Government at the cost of $5,000 through the International Mekong Committee and the Vietnam Mekong Committee. The Water Conservancy Ministry has cooperated with Cuu Long provincial authorities over the past 5 years or so to successfully implement this project in Chau Thanh District. The purpose of the project is to prevent waterlogging, to drain away saline water, and to irrigate 7,000 hectares of agricultural land for a population of 22,000 or more.

Chau Thanh District has officially accepted the project and established plans to manage and use it to obtain the best results from this important project of friendship.

Leaders Send Greetings To Mark Lunar New Year

Nguyen Van Linh Sends Letter

BK2701041490 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1000 GMT 26 Jan 90

[From the press review]

[Text] All issues of special Tet papers carry party General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh's letter of Tet greetings to compatriots. On behalf of the party Central Committee, the comrade general secretary extended his best wishes to all the people and troops countrywide and to overseas compatriots. He urged:

Emotionally bidding farewell to last year and with encouraging progress, we enter the 1990 Year of the Horse with paramount, historic anniversaries and heavy and difficult tasks in sight.

Although before us are many favorable conditions created by positive changes last year, there are still many difficulties and ordeals to overcome. Nevertheless, with the indomitable and heroic traditions of all party members, people, and troops, we will certainly score new victories on the path of renovation.

Greeting the Year of the Horse, let us hope that with determination and new energy all our party members, people, and troops will continue to win even greater victories in the implementation of the sixth party congress resolution to bring the socialist revolution to a new peak for the happiness of present and future generations.

Vo Chi Cong Sends Greetings

BK2701051590 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 26 Jan 90

["Text" of State Council Chairman Vo Chi Cong's Tet greetings to compatriots and combatants countrywide and to overseas Vietnamese; date, place not given—read by announcer]

[Text] Dear compatriots and combatants: On the occasion of early spring, on behalf of the party Central Committee, the National Assembly, the Council of State, and the Council of Ministers, I cordially convey my kind regards and warmest New Year wishes to all compatriots, workers, peasants, intellectuals, combatants of all armed forces, surviving families of fallen heroes, wounded and sick soldiers, old cadres, meritorious revolutionary families, all elderly people, youths, teenagers, children, people of all nationalities and religions, and overseas Vietnamese.

Last year, in carrying out comprehensive renovation in accordance with the sixth party congress resolution, our compatriots and combatants throughout the country stalwartly struggled to overcome all difficulties and ordeals, creating positive changes in the socioeconomic life of the country. Noteworthy was that 20 million or more tonnes of grain were produced; serious inflation was checked and repelled a step further; socialist democracy was expanded; and the people's role of mastery was developed. These important progresses have contributed to gradually stabilizing the socioeconomic situation and consolidating our firm confidence in the country's renovation campaign.

On behalf of the party and the state, I warmly commend all our compatriots and combatants for having upheld the heroic traditions, laboriously and creatively worked, developed the sense of mastery, and scored comprehensively outstanding achievements for the sake of socialist construction and national defense. I welcome all overseas Vietnamese for having always looked to the fatherland and made positive contributions to building the country.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my warm wishes to all comrades and international friends who are celebrating the new year on Vietnamese territory.

Dear compatriots and combatants: The socioeconomic development tasks of our country in the new year are very heavy. Difficulties and weaknesses still prevail. Let compatriots and combatants countrywide strengthen solidarity; bring into play our achievements; uphold the spirit of self-sufficiency and self-support; strenuously develop production; strictly practice thrift; expand economic relations with foreign countries; resolutely struggle against all negative phenomena; firmly maintain discipline, order, and public safety; continue to build the all-people national defense; be determined to fulfill all the 1990 socioeconomic targets and tasks set forth by the National Assembly; and positively contribute to the world people's struggle for peace, national independence, democracy, and social progress.

In the new year, let all our people accelerate renovation even more vigorously and achieve many new successes to solemnly commemorate our venerated and beloved President Ho Chi Minh's 100th birth anniversary and to greet the other major anniversaries of our nation.

My cordial greetings.

Minister Greets Security Forces

BK2701051190 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 26 Jan 90

[Text] On the occasion of the lunar new year, Comrade Mai Chi Tho, Political Bureau member and interior minister, sent a letter of Tet greetings to the cadres, combatants, workers, and other personnel of the people's public security forces. The letter said in part:

With a new impetus, the people's public security forces should raise their sense of criticism and self-criticism; bring into play their good points; overcome shortcomings; uphold vigilance; continuously crack down on all criminals; build themselves into strong and wholesome forces; remain close to the people; vigorously accelerate the national defense movement; implement well the resolution of the 45th national conference of the people's public security forces; and satisfactorily assure security and order in the country.

Leaders Pay New Year Visits to Localities

BK2701135990 Hanoi International Service in English 1000 GMT 27 Jan 90

[Text] On the occasion of the Lunar New Year festival, State Council President Vo Chi Cong paid a visit to Tay Ninh Province, south Vietnam. President Vo Chi Cong called on the leaders of the province to build a firm provincial party committee to successfully exercise democracy and the people's victories.

Also on this occasion, Chairman of the Council of Ministers Do Muoi paid new year visits to various industrial and agricultural establishments and scientific, technical, and art institutions in Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City, and some other provinces.

Speaking to representatives of public employees and population in these localities, Chairman Do Muoi highly praised their inspiring achievements in the process of renovation.

Chairman Do Muoi Pays Visits

BK2701063690 Hanoi VNA in English 0508 GMT 27 Jan 90

[Text] Hanoi VNA January 27—Chairman of the Council of Ministers Do Muoi has paid new year visits to various industrial and agricultural establishments, and scientific technical and art institutions in Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City, and the provinces of Hau Giang, Dong Nai, Cuu Long and Ha Son Binh.

Speaking to representatives of public employees and population in these localities, Chairman Do Muoi highly praised their inspiring achievements in the process of renovation. He pointed out various imperative measures to be taken to solve the existing problems and called for further development of production and business so as to successfully carry out the 1990 state plan as the country's three major economic programs charted at the sixth party congress, and to make preparation for the five-year plan (1991-1995), the socio-economic strategy till the year 2000 and the seventh party congress.

He also visited the families of a number of writers, musicians, singers, stage artists and painters in those localities.

Hanoi Delegations Make Visits

BK2701082890 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 25 Jan 90

[Text] On the occasion of the Lunar New Year of the Horse, the party committee, people's council, people's committee, and Vietnam Fatherland Front [VFF] Committee of Hanoi municipality paid Tet visits to many production and administrative installations and some army units.

Comrades Pham The Duyet, secretary of the party Central Committee and the municipal party committee; Pham Loi, chairman of the city people's council; and Le At Hoi, chairman of the city people's committee paid Tet visits to many production, business, and service units, and some army units of the Capital Military Region and the Hanoi public security service.

A delegation of the municipal people's committee and VFF committee paid Tet visits to border troops in Lang Son Province. A delegation of the party and people's committees of Ba Dinh Precinct paid a Tet visit to its sister city of Lang Son. The Hanoi delegations also visited the Lam Dong new economic zone. The city VFF delegation also paid Tet visits and distributed gifts to some representatives of religions and ethnic minority people.

'Year of the Horse' Greeted in Vietnamese Press

BK2701070790 Hanoi VNA in English 0450 GMT 27 Jan 90

[Text] Hanoi VNA January 27—Renovation and democratization are the main topics in the editorials of all Vietnamese dailies and weeklies greeting the new lunar year—the Year of the Horse.

The papers also give large coverage to the stirring atmosphere in preparation for the celebration of the major national anniversaries in 1990—the 60th anniversary of the Communist Party of Vietnam, the birth centenary of President Ho Chi Minh and the 45th anniversary of the socialist president Ho Chi Minh and the 45th anniversary of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, and carry stories and photos about the theme on the horse as well as the Vietnamese people's cultural traditions and customs in spring and the Tet.

NHAN DAN, central organ of the Communist Party of Vietnam, the Army paper QUAN DOI NHAN DAN, HANOI MOI (NEW HANOI) daily ... give pride of place to party General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh's new year message calling on the entire people to carry on political and economic renovation in steady steps in order to consolidate and promote the initial socioeconomic successes in recent years.

"Renovation sets forth vernal forces" editorializes NHAN DAN; "renovation, an eternal but always new law" says QUAN DOI NHAN DAN; "democracy and people's wisdom" says SAIGON GIAI PHONG (LIBERATED SAIGON), etc. The weekly LAO DONG (LABOUR), organ of the confederation of Vietnamese labour, titles its editorial "Today's Affairs Can't Be Run as in the Past".

All papers agree that the inspiring results in rice production and exports, in the production of commodities, and the curb on inflation and price hikes are due first of all to the new policies on economic management and a further step in the democratization of social life.

NHAN DAN writes: "Renovation is the only correct way for our party and people to overcome the big difficulties, achieve stability and spur development. Renovation creates a new force and a new position like spring generating the miraculous power of reproduction of nature in accordance with its law of development".

Marking the 60th anniversary (Feb 3) of the Communist Party of Vietnam, the organizer and leader of all victories of the Vietnamese revolution and the initiator of the current renovation, all papers renew their confidence in the leadership of the party, the vanguard contingent of the Vietnamese working class.

Under the title: "To Defend the Party Is To Defend Wisdom, Scientific Thinking and Democracy", the weekly LAO DONG carries an article by Tran Bach Dang, a senior columnist. The article says: "The party is the life of the working class and all working people of our country. Any attempt to encroach upon the leadership of the party is an attempt to hinder the historic mission of the majority of the Vietnamese people and to violate the national independence. It also means an attempt to block the advance towards prosperity and happiness of our people. In other words, it is an attempt to deny the Vietnamese people's freedom and democracy".

In anticipation of the birth centenary of President Ho Chi Minh, all papers publish memoirs, articles and poems in praise of the late leader.

Referring to UNESCO's call for world-wide commemoration of this eminent world cultural personality, Prof Tran Quoc Vuong, a well-known historian, wrote in the Army paper QUAN DOI NHAN DAN: "President Ho was one of the initiators of the liberation movement of the colonial peoples and became a key leader recognised and respected in Asia and the third world".

As the Year of the Horse is approaching, the horse is an inevitable topic. "About the Horse and Its Qualities", "The Horse, a Symbol of Culture and Language", "How the Mounted Gene Giong Defeated the Invaders", "Horse Race, a Newly Restored Sport in Vietnam" ... are the titles of some articles about the horse.

The press is also filled with stories, poems, parallel sentences about the Tet customs, dishes, festivals, and pictures of newly crowned beauty queens of Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City, Hue and other cities.

A ubiquitous novelty in the Vietnamese press this year is the considerable space reserved for advertisement by hundreds of production establishments, state owned and private alike, with pictures of diversified consumer goods.

Editorial Welcomes Traditional Lunar New Year

BK2901092090 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 26 Jan 90

[NHAN DAN 27 January Editorial: "Renovation Revives the People's Strength"]

[Text] The spring of the Year of the Horse evokes in each of our Vietnamese people profound thoughts about the current situation and responsibility. Through the three-year process of renovation, we have scored important achievements in grain production, thus bringing the pace of inflation to a halt. However, the socioeconomic crisis still grows. [passage indistinct]

Our party was born in the 1930 Year of the Horse. This [1990] year of the horse is just one 60-year cycle of the lunar calendar. While being proud of the past stalwart struggle of all party members and the people, our party has realized all the more clearly its weaknesses and is trying to move forward with its duties to lead and stand with the people throughout the country in order to vigorously acelerate renovation, following accurate and effective measures and steps. This is the most practical way to commemorate the major historic anniversaries in 1990 and realize the dream of our venerated and beloved Uncle Ho of successfully building socialism in a unified Vietnamese fatherland.

Renovation [words indistinct] correct policies of our party (?and people) in order to overcome all major difficulties in stablizing and developing the economy [words indistinct] according to the law of development.

Lang Son Residents Travel for Tet Shopping

BK2901121190 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 28 Jan 90

[Text] Preparing for the celebration of the Tet [traditional lunar new year] festival, people of various nationalities in Lang Son Province living in villages with border gates to China, went shopping at markets on both sides of the border where commodities for the Tet celebrations were relatively diversified. With elation, they greeted each other and exchanged best wishes for a new year of prosperity, peace, and friendship.

Last year, apart from reaping a bumper crop, the people in these border villages were allowed to travel back and forth across the border. This was the second time they observed a jubilant celebration of the Tet festival, as border defense posts at various border gates and the local administration had created favorable conditions for them to welcome the new spring in accordance with the customs and habits of each ethnic group.

Sticky-rice, foodstufs, and industrial goods were brought by trucks to various villages for sale to the local people on the occasion of the Lunar New Year of the Horse.

Australia

Evans on Aid to PNG, Human Rights Abuses

BK2901091790 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0803 GMT 29 Jan 90

[From the "International Report" program]

[Text] Australia has pledged to continue giving military and police assistance to Papua New Guinea [PNG] despite reports of human rights abuses by PNG authorities on Bougainville. The minister for foreign affairs, Senator Gareth Evans, says Australia is concerned at human rights abuses on both sides of the conflict and he has commended the PNG Government's response to the problem.

In Canberra, here is Radio Australia's diplomatic correspondent, Stuart Heather:

[Begin recording] [Heather] Senator Evans made the comments while announcing that Australia is boosting civilian aid to PNG by Australian $3 million, most of which will tackle deficiencies in police training and facilities. Senator Evans also announced that Canberra has approved the foreshadowed military training program which will add 450 soldiers to PNG's Defense Forces in just over a year.

Allegations of human rights abuses by the PNG authorities on Bougainville are not new, as Senator Evans reminded journalists at a news conference in Canberra's Parliament House. But in response to reporters questions about suspicious killings, bashings, and the detentions of suspected rebel sympathizers, the Australian foreign minister revealed that he has raised the issue of human rights abuses with PNG's prime minister, Rabbie Namaliu.

[Evans] I am very concerned indeed about these reports, the Australian Government is very concerned indeed. They are not new, and they have been the subject of previous representations and expressions of concern by us; most recently by me to Prime Minister Rabbie Namaliu when I met him in Port Moresby just a few days ago at the ministerial forum.

The fact that abuses of this kind unhappily seem to inevitably occur in circumstances of the kind that now exists on Bougainville today does not in any way excuse or justify abuses taking place. And similarly, our very close relationship with Papua New Guinea does not exempt it from the Australian Government's universal human rights policy which is to deplore abuse of human rights wherever it occurs.

[Heather] However, Senator Evans said that the Namaliu government's response had been constructive and helpful. Senator Evans said that rather than deter Australian involvement in assisting the PNG Defense Forces and law and order authorities, he sees a constructive role in Australia's considerable contribution to their training and administration.

[Evans] The final thing I would say about this is that to the extent that one can diagnose the reasons for the sort of things occurring, it is suggested by many people, including within the Papua New Guinea Government, that there are problems of training and of effective administration within some levels of the PNG Defense Forces and the RPNGCB, or the Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary—problems which are not going to be easy to address in a very short run, but which are certainly capable of being addressed by effective training programs and management programs over the period ahead. And that, of course, is the underlying rationale, among others, of the Australian Government's very strong support for the police project, which is designed to pump in something over Australian $15 million now over a relatively short period directed at just those sorts of objectives.

[Heather] The secessionist movement in Bougainville is, according to Senator Evans, a disease and a challenge to the whole fabric of PNG society. He said that if the disease were to spread, the fragmentation of Papua New Guinea would be unhealthy for regional security and not in Australia's interests.

While Senator Evans said that Australia will not interfere in PNG's internal affairs, he made it clear that the democratically elected government in Port Moresby can rely on Australia for assistance in keeping the nation together.

[Evans] There is just no question but that the Australian Government will go on being extremely sympathetic to the present needs of the Papua New Guinea Government as it struggles to hold the nation together. The stakes at the moment are extraordinarily high. [end recording]

Papua New Guinea

Security Forces Kill Five in Bougainville

BK2701065090 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0500 GMT 27 Jan 90

[Text] On Papua New Guinea's Bougainville Island, another five people have been killed in intense fighting between security forces and militant land owners.

A Radio Australia reporter, (Rob Reshkie), reports from the island that four rebels were killed in a motor attack on a rebel stronghold late yesterday. He said another rebel was shot dead when he tried to escape from custody.

(Reshkie) says the latest killing takes the death toll in 13 months of fighting on Bougainville to about 70.